

## Flight delay

Air Force orders one-day stand-down over safety issues amid rise in fatal crashes

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The top Air Force general has ordered a one-day stand-down for all aircraft so the service can review its safety measures and curb a drastic rise in crashes that have killed 18 airmen since October.

Gen. David Goldfein ordered the stand-down Monday for flying and maintenance units, directing

commanders to convene forums to gather feedback from airmen to help them identify underlying issues that might have contributed to the increase in fatal crashes. Air Force data show that Class A mishaps — crashes resulting in more than \$2 million of damage to aircraft or fatal or permanent injury — have increased 48 percent among the service's manned aircraft since the start of fiscal year 2018, which began Oct. 1.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 5

## N. Korea frees 3 detainees, clearing hurdle for US summit

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea freed three American detainees on Wednesday, allowing them to leave with the visiting secretary of state and removing a potential obstacle to a planned summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un.

Trump announced the release of the three men on Twitter, capping hours of suspense after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made his second surprise visit to Pyongyang in just over a month.

With the prisoners freed, Trump told reporters that the date and venue for the summit would be announced "within three days," but added that the meeting would not be held in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean Peninsula.

"Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in the air and on his way back from North Korea with the 3 wonderful gentlemen that everyone is looking so forward to meeting," he tweeted. "They seem to be in good health."

Trump also said Pompeo had a good meeting with the North Korean leader. "Date & Place set," he added, without giving details.

In a second tweet, the president said the plane would land at Joint Base Andrews, Md., at 2 a.m. and he would be there to greet it.

The plane made a stop at Yokota Air Base in Japan late Wednesday. Pompeo told reporters traveling with him that the former detainees were to be transferred to another plane that was better equipped to handle medical needs.

The president has said frequently in recent weeks that he was ready to meet with Kim in what would be the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit.

SEE DETAINEES ON PAGE 10

Crew chiefs from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., prepare one of the unit's F-15E Strike Eagles to shut down after the aircraft arrived at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky., on April 19 in preparation for the Thunder Over Louisville air show.

DALE GREEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Air National Guard

### NAVY

Carrier Washington might fly combat drones from deck

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### MLB

Mariners' Paxton becomes the 1st Canadian to throw no-hitter in home country

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## MILITARY

# Niger attack report urges no punishment for officers

By DAVID S. CLOUD  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Pentagon investigation into an ambush that killed four U.S. soldiers in Niger in October found that two officers in charge misinformed higher-ups about the danger of the mission, yet no punishment was recommended against them, according to officials familiar with the still-unreleased report on the findings.

Two Army captains — one in charge of the 12-man unit targeted in the ambush and another back at headquarters — did not disclose in paperwork before the mission that it was more than a routine reconnaissance, that the soldiers were seeking to capture the leader of an Islamic State affiliate involved in kidnapping an American aid worker, according to the officials briefed on the investigation findings.

The report recommended against taking disciplinary action against the two officers, however, because the officers believed they had authority to carry out the capture-or-kill mission without approval, the officials said.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has reviewed the report on the investigation by Maj. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier, chief of staff of U.S. Africa Command, and is expected to accept the conclusions, officials said.

The deadly firefight was caused by an "aggressive, opportunistic enemy," which attacked the team

**The two officers 'were clearly within the authorities they believed they possessed.'**

Rep. Steve Russell  
R-Okla.

of U.S. and Nigerian soldiers after they stopped for water at the remote village of Tongo Tongo — not by the failure to follow proper procedure, according to Rep. Steve Russell, an Oklahoma Republican and member of the House Armed Services Committee who was briefed Monday on the findings.

The two officers "were clearly within the authorities they believed they possessed," said Russell, who is a former Army officer. "The ambush at Tongo Tongo could have happened whether they did that or not."

Families of the deceased soldiers — Sgt. La David T. Johnson, 25, of Miami Gardens, Fla.; Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Wash.; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springboro, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Ga. — have been briefed on the report, which is expected to be made public this week.

Johnson initially was unaccounted for, and his body wasn't found until after a two-day search, and then by Nigerian villagers.

The attack caused a public relations furor for the White House after President Donald Trump

took several days to reach out to the soldiers' families and then was accused of making insensitive remarks to Johnson's widow by a Democratic congresswoman from Florida who is a friend of the Johnson family and claimed to have overheard his remarks. The White House denied that Trump was disrespectful.

The ambush also raised questions about whether U.S. forces in Saharan Africa were adequately equipped to operate in the vast areas where they were at a time when Islamic militants had become increasingly aggressive near Niger's border with Mali.

Before leaving their base near the Nigerian capital of Niamey on Oct. 3, the dozen-man special operations team had reported that they would be conducting reconnaissance and meeting with tribal leaders.

Their real mission, aided by 30 Nigerian soldiers who joined the convoy of unarmored vehicles, was to search for Doudou Chefo, the leader of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, the officials said. Some details from the Pentagon report were first reported by NBC News.

While the mission was under-



MATIAS J. OCNER, MIAMI HERALD/TNS

**Myeshia Johnson is presented with the U.S. flag that was draped over the casket of her husband, Sgt. La David T. Johnson, during his burial service in Hollywood, Fla., on Oct. 21, 2017.**

way, the team was ordered by superiors to assist a separate U.S. team sent to search for Chefo by helicopter. Both groups of soldiers — one in the air and one on the ground — were supposed to converge on a site in northern Niger where Chefo had been reported.

Bad weather forced cancellation of the team moving by helicopter, leaving only the team from Niamey to pursue Chefo. They found the site deserted, according to Russell.

The ambush occurred hours later as the unit drove back to Niamey. A large group of militants who happened to be near Tongo Tongo attacked the U.S. and Nigerian soldiers as they were leaving the village, officials said

The attackers eventually were driven off after the U.S. team radioed that they were under attack and a French Mirage fighter who rushed to the scene conducted several low-level passes, scaring off the militants. The dead and wounded — except for Johnson — were evacuated by a helicopter flown by civilian contract pilots, officials said.

The U.S. soldiers had no reason to expect an attack at the village and no evidence that the militants who carried out the attack were ordered to do so by Chefo, Russell said.

He added, "The single greatest factor was an aggressive, opportunistic enemy."

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## MILITARY

# Carrier Washington may get aerial drones

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS George Washington could be outfitted to host aerial drones and regain its position as the nation's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, according to the fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization bill.

The carrier, which was homeported at Yokosuka for seven years before being replaced by the USS Ronald Reagan in 2015 — is undergoing a four-year midlife refueling and overhaul in Virginia that began last fall.

The House Armed Services Committee chairman's mark summary of the bill

requires the Navy to incorporate MQ-25A Stingray combat drones on the George Washington "to ensure that our only forward deployed carrier is equipped with the first carrier-based [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles]."

The bill also requires "the Navy to fund the modification of [the USS George Washington] during its refueling and overhaul period in support of future MQ-25 unmanned carrier aircraft operations."

A legislative aide confirmed the George Washington "will return to Japan following its [refueling and overhaul] and that the current forward-deployed carrier, USS Ronald Reagan, will return to the U.S.," according to a U.S. Naval Institute report

published last week.

A Navy spokeswoman told Stars and Stripes such a move has not been formally decided.

"U.S. Navy long-range planners constantly evaluate whether ships, aircraft and equipment are being used effectively and efficiently," said Lt. Marycate Walsh, of the Navy Office of Information at the Pentagon. "The Navy monitors force readiness and capabilities to provide the most robust capable maritime force possible. Decisions for this and other carrier homeport assignments will be announced when appropriate." The Boeing-designed MQ-25 is designed to provide the Navy with refueling capability

ties that would extend the combat range of deployed F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler and F-35C fighters.

The service's 2019 proposed budget requests \$719 million for MQ-25A Stingray tanker research and development. Officials have said the service expects to purchase its first four MQ-25As in 2023, and have them reach initial operational capacity in 2026, according to the USNI report.

For now, the Ronald Reagan will remain homeported at Yokosuka, where its sailors are preparing for their upcoming deployment.

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## Army looks to next-gen weaponry in exercise

By MARTIN EGNASH

Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — A .50-caliber machine gun mounted on an Army Stryker vehicle? Very effective, but old school.

The Joint Warfighting Assessment at Exercise Combined Resolve gave soldiers a glimpse of the future battlefield this week by combining standard ground-fighting tactics with prototypes like the Stryker Directed Energy system, a high-powered mounted laser.

While the laser wasn't yet operational, Army officials say it could be ready to shoot drones out of the sky within a year or two.

"Our focus is on the Army in 2028," said Maj. Brett Lee, spokesman for the Joint Warfighting Assessment, which plays a key role in the service's modernization efforts. "We are informing the future force development by assessing how the soldiers going through this exercise utilize the concepts and capabilities we've injected into this exercise."

The JWA tested 27 different concepts and capabilities at Combined Resolve, with input coming from some of the nearly 3,700 soldiers representing 13 nations at the exercise.

The exercise is the culminating event for the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, currently on rotation in Europe.

In the exercise, multinational forces had to counterattack a high-tech enemy while using both current fighting techniques and state-of-the-art equipment, including a prototype lightweight vehicle for airborne troops and newly developed drones.

The laser, mounted on a Stryker chassis, would have fewer ammunition constraints and better range than current weaponry.

"We are at the beginning of a next generation of warfare, where we use less kinetic means and instead put energy on a target," Lee said. "It's brilliant. It's limited only on your power source, and in the future, it could have almost unlimited potential."

The assessment also brought several new water systems to the exercise, including the Small Unit Water Purifier, a more



SHAYLA HAKEEM/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**U.S. Army Master Sgt. Timothy Brogan, rear, an observer, coach/trainer, watches as Pfc. Alec Ervin and Pfc. Alex Rojas, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, prepare to test a tactical decontamination concept at Joint Warfighting Assessment 18 in Hohenfels, Germany, on May 3.**

lightweight, maneuverable water filter.

"Even in the future fight, you are going to have a lot of the same constraints we do today," Lee said. "You need to have a light, mobile way to purify water, especially if your enemy is using chemicals."

The Army will analyze how soldiers utilized the new equipment and determine what needs to be done to improve it.

"One thing armies always get wrong is understanding what a future fight looks like," Lee said. "It's human nature to look back on what used to work and how things used to happen, and it's often not successful in the opening stages of a conflict."

"The pace of future army conflicts will be very quick. If we get it wrong in the beginning, it will be very dangerous for us. Our job is to make sure we get it right."

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KALIE FRANTZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Visitors look at the Martin Unmanned Aerial Vehicle V-BAT in Hohenfels on May 3.**

## China is seen making gains in Asia-Pacific

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

China will replace the United States as the most powerful player in the Asia-Pacific region by 2030, Australian researchers predicted this week.

The Sydney-based Lowy Institute's interactive Asia Power Index rates 25 countries in the region across eight categories, including military alliances and capability; economic resources; diplomatic and cultural influence; trade; resilience; and future trends.

The U.S. ranks first followed by China, Japan, India, Russia and Australia.

"The United States is still the top dog but China is closing fast," Michael Fullilove, the institute's executive director, and Hervé Lemahieu, a research fellow, wrote in The Australian newspaper Wednesday.

Washington leads in military capability and cultural influence, but Beijing is competing effectively below the threshold of conflict. China leads in terms of economic relationships in Asia, and the Belt and Road Initiative is likely to increase that lead, the pair wrote.

Unless there's drastic change, China will top the index in 10 to 15 years, Fullilove told the newspaper Tuesday.

Some of America's friends and allies will also see their influence decline, according to the index.

Australia, which is now in the top six, may drop to the middle of the pack to become the 13th-ranked Asia-Pacific power by 2030. New Zealand, ranked 12th despite its small defense force, could have less clout than Cambodia in just over a decade, according to the study.

China could supplant the U.S. not only in the Pacific but in other parts of the world, said Paul Buchanan, an American security analyst based in New Zealand.

However, when it comes to the military rivalry it isn't clear that the U.S. will lose its dominant position, he said. China will likely clash with a neighbor in the near future over an issue such as the right of safe passage or freedom of navigation, Buchanan predicted.

If and when that happens, the U.S. military is likely to get involved, and the outcome will determine the long-term pre-eminent power in the region, he said.

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## EUROPE

# 2nd GI is convicted in loss of Humvees

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

A 173rd Airborne Brigade soldier was convicted Wednesday of being responsible for the destruction of three Humvees that plummeted to the earth during a 2016 training exercise, an event captured on video that became an internet sensation and an embarrassment to the Army.

Sgt. John Skipper, 29, was found guilty at court-martial in Vilseck, Germany, of destroying military property and giving a false official statement, according to a statement from the 7th Army Training Command, based in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Skipper was sentenced by a military jury to a bad-conduct discharge and reduction in grade to E-4.

Skipper, a scout who had been assigned to assist the brigade's Italy-based parachute riggers during the exercise, intentionally cut parachute straps on three Humvees included in the heavy drop during the exercise, the jury found.

Skipper is assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regi-

ment (Airborne) in Grafenwoehr. The squadron is part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade headquartered in Vicenza, Italy.

Skipper was criminally charged a year ago.

His sentence could have been harsher. Willful destruction of government property carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Negligent destruction carries a maximum punishment of a year in prison, a bad-conduct discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Skipper was the second soldier to be punished in this incident.

A sergeant first class heard laughing and cursing on a video of the Humvees falling from the sky was punished previously. The sergeant, an observer trainer coach assigned to the 7th ATC's Joint Multinational Readiness Center, was given an administrative letter of reprimand.

The video of the incident has been viewed more than 1.4 million times on YouTube.

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Video screen grabs show a parachute training exercise in which three Humvees detached from their parachutes after being dropped from a passing C-130 and plummeted to the ground in Hohenfels, Germany.

Courtesy of YouTube



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## MILITARY

# Safety: 2018 has been deadliest year for Air Force in at least a decade

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"We cannot afford to lose a single airman or weapons system due to a mishap that could have been prevented," Goldfein said. "Our men and women have volunteered to give their last full measure for America's security."

The stand-down comes on the heels of a May 2 crash of an Air Force WC-130H in Savannah, Ga., that killed all nine members of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard who were aboard the plane that was bound for decommissioning at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. It remains unclear what caused the decades-old cargo plane to go down just moments after taking off. Air Force officials said the circumstances remain under investigation.

It was the fourth fatal crash for the service in fiscal year 2018. The Air Force had only one fatal crash the previously year, data show.

The 18 deaths in those crashes makes 2018 the deadliest aviation year in at least a decade for the Air Force. Thirteen airmen were killed in six crashes in 2008 and 10 were killed in five crashes in 2013. The service did not record double-digit fatalities in any other year since 2008, its data show.

Air Force Maj. Gen. John Rauch, the service's safety chief, told reporters at the Pentagon on Tuesday that the stand-down had been discussed among senior Air Force officials before it was ordered this week. Active-duty units have until May 21 to complete the one-day pause, he said. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units will have until June 25 to complete



JAMES LAVINE/AP

The crash of an Air National Guard WC-130H cargo plane on May 2 in Savannah, Ga., that killed nine members of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard prompted the Air Force's top general to order a one-day stand-down to review safety issues.

their stand-down.

Rauch said it was not clear whether underlying issues connect the fatal crashes. Some members of Congress have linked the uptick in such incidents in aviation

among all four military services to budget cuts under sequestration in recent years.

Rep. Adam Smith, of Washington, the ranking Democrat for the House Armed Services Committee, introduced legislation

Monday to create an independent National Commission on Military Aviation Safety to probe the rise in militarywide aviation crashes since 2013, the year sequestration took effect.

Goldfein has directed his wing commanders to focus their forums during the stand-downs on several areas including leadership, training, mission planning, risk management, flight-line operations, experience among their airmen, and flying and maintenance fundamentals, Rauch said.

Rauch said information collected during the single-day reviews would be forwarded up the Air Force chains of command, but he could not say how the review would help address the problems in military aviation. He described the move as "not insignificant" and said the stand-down did not include plans for a formal, high-level review of its findings that would be released to the public.

Rauch also said Air Force aviation was "not in a crisis," echoing other senior Pentagon officials who have made similar comments in recent weeks.

In addition to the WC-130 crash last week, the Air Force lost one of its elite Thunderbirds pilots in a F-16 crash during training at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas last month.

In March, seven airmen died when an Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk went down in Iraq. The military said the helicopter was not shot down by enemy fire.

In November, a pilot was killed when his T-38 trainer jet crashed in Texas.

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## NATION



OCTAVIO JONES, TAMPA BAY (FLA.) TIMES/AP

## Inside information on a coral reef

Navy Lt. j.g. Ben Thayer, of Tallahassee, Fla., a member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2 Unit, greets visitors while diving in the large coral reef tank at The Florida Aquarium in Tampa on Tuesday. Tampa Bay is hosting Navy Week with events to coincide with Tampa Bay AirFest this weekend.

# Congress wants a review of military child-on-child abuse

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD  
AND REESE DUNKLIN  
Associated Press

Congress has asked its watchdog agency to investigate the Pentagon's handling of child-on-child sex assaults on U.S. military bases following reporting by The Associated Press that detailed how failures of justice leave victims with little support and of-fenders little consequence.

The AP's investigation, which documented nearly 700 cases worldwide over 10 years, has prompted legislation and demands for answers by members of Congress. The recent request that the Government Accountability Office get involved means a more transparent review of an opaque system is likely.

The top Republican and a top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee asked the GAO to review the handling of

child-on-child sexual assault reports at Pentagon-run schools that educate about 70,000 military kids, as well as how military investigators and lawyers seek justice for cases they cannot prosecute.

Reps. Mac Thornberry, of Texas, and Jackie Speier, of California, wrote in an April 25 letter that they worried "the investigation and adjudication" of student sex assaults at Pentagon-run schools "may not be consistent across the department."

The AP found that even though students at Pentagon schools have fewer legal protections than their public school peers, the system hasn't had a specific policy for responding to child-on-child sexual violence and hasn't accurately tracked incidents.

House committee members are considering requiring that the Pentagon's school system improve its tracking of juvenile mis-

conduct as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which the committee is scheduled to re-vise Wednesday. Their Senate counterparts are drafting more expansive legislation.

The House letter also requested information about how the military handles reports of other types of child abuse. The accountability office is not required to accept requests and is still reviewing this one, but spokesman Chuck Young wrote in an email Tuesday it was "likely" the GAO would take it up. Thornberry and Speier requested a preliminary briefing by Feb. 1, 2019.

With at least four potential legislative fixes being drafted, military officials who have briefed members of Congress and their staffs in recent weeks have made clear that they want to handle the issue on their own and do not desire any new legislation.

## China: Stealth fighter conducts sea training

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's homebuilt J-20 stealth fighter has conducted sea training for the first time, the air force said Wednesday.

The recent mission took the plane or planes out to sea for drills under "actual war conditions," air force spokesman Senior Col. Shen Jinke posted to the service's microblog. He called that a "further upgrade of the air force's combat capabilities."

China said in February that the plane had obtained initial operational capability and was being

introduced into combat units.

First flown in 2011, the J-20 is China's answer to fifth-generation jets such as the U.S. F-22 and F-35. With its stealthy capabilities, speed and maneuverability, it potentially represents a major upgrade to Chinese air power, although questions have been raised about some of its technologies, especially its engines. Though developed domestically, the J-20 is believed to have initially relied on Russian engines for propulsion due to manufacturing problems in China.

Some reports say they have since been replaced with Chinese engines, the WS-10B, which do not have a big enough thrust-to-weight ratio to allow the J-20 to cruise at supersonic speeds without using afterburners, something that would expose it to detection.

China increased its defense budget by 8.1 percent this year to \$173 billion as it prepares to launch its second aircraft carrier and field an array of advanced warplanes and missiles able to attack air and sea targets at vast distances.

# Fitzgerald officer loses some pay, is reprimanded

By DIANNA CAHN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The junior lieutenant in charge of navigating the destroyer USS Fitzgerald when it collided with the container ship MV ACX Crystal last year was sentenced Tuesday to loss of a portion of her pay and a letter of reprimand.

Earlier, Lt. j.g. Sarah Coppock had pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and acknowledged her role in the deaths of seven sailors in the collision.

Coppock cried during her court-martial at the Washington Navy Yard. She was sentenced to forfeit half of her pay for three months — an additional month on top of the two she forfeited as her nonjudicial punishment. She also received a letter of reprimand.

"Not a day goes by where I haven't thought about what I could have done differently," she said. "There is nothing I can do now but take responsibility."

Coppock said her success as an officer of the Navy was through the support of her squadrons. "And then, when it mattered, I failed them," she said through tears. "I made some tremendously bad decisions and they had to pay the price for them."

Coppock's unsworn statement followed the testimony of family members of sailors who died when the Fitzgerald struck the civilian commercial vessel off the coast of Japan on June 17. The court heard about a wife who now fears water and a 3-year-old who will never again share fears with his dad, and parents who lost their faith and struggle to keep their marriage together.

"I am sad all the time," said Terri Rigby, whose son Dakota Rigby was among the sailors killed. "I have persistent images in my mind of him drowning, and struggling to get out of his compartment. I am terrified he was scared and he suffered."

Coppock was among 18 sailors who faced nonjudicial punishment in the wake of separate collisions involving two Japan-based Navy destroyers in 2017. Ten sailors died when the USS John S. McCain collided with a commercial tanker in August, just two months after the Fitzgerald collision.

Coppock was charged for failing to "communicate and coordinate with the Combat Information Center, report ship specified contacts to the commanding officer, operate as having 'dozens of failure points' condition and alert crew of imminent collision," according to the charge sheet.

Capt. Charles Purnell, the Navy judge presiding over Tuesday's court-martial, described the collision as having "dozens of failure points and dereliction of many

participants — a legion, if you will, of failures."

As officer of the deck on June 17, Coppock was responsible for the safe navigation of the ship after the commanding officer went to his quarters that evening. The ship had been conducting evolutions all day, and the crew was tired.

Coppock testified that she had been instructed by the commanding officer to maintain 20 knots even as the ship traversed heavily trafficked waters and its main navigation radar stopped working fully about an hour before the collision. Meanwhile, she said the "low confidence" she had in some of her fellow watch standers played into her decision not to be in closer communication with sailors in the Combat Information Center. Below deck, they are supposed to gather and communicate information to the bridge.

Coppock described an unspoken culture on the ship not to follow the standing orders to contact the commanding officer when the ship is within 6,000 yards of another ship "especially in that specific situation."

"We would have called him every five minutes," she said.

She acknowledged losing situational awareness and not sounding the alarm to alert the crew ahead of the collision. Coppock said she was focused on something else and the rest of her crew froze. Still, she said it was her responsibility to make sure watch standers were carrying out their duties, and she failed to do that.

Prosecutors laid blame at Coppock's feet, saying she "chose to be blind," never sought help from the information center, did not respond properly when she saw the Crystal on the radar 12 nautical miles from the ship and lost situational awareness. She failed to sound blasts alerting the Crystal or attempt to contact it, nor did she alert the commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Hochmuth said.

When it became clear that impact was inevitable, she "failed to give the crew notice, a chance to get out of their racks, a chance to brace themselves."

The prosecution did acknowledge Coppock never tried to "skip out of accepting accountability for this horrible collision" or tried to blame anyone else. She cooperated with the investigations and "appears to be trying to make sure this never happens again."

She is one of many who contributed to the deaths of these sailors and the tens of millions of dollars in damage, Hochmuth said.

"She took responsibility on herself," he said. "That should not be lost on the court."

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Police stations among targets of Kabul blasts

By CHAD GARLAND  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARHAIL  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least two police were killed and more than six people were wounded in a series of blasts that rocked the capital Wednesday afternoon, including multiple bombings in a neighborhood near the international zone where the U.S. Embassy and NATO mission are located.

The Taliban and Islamic State claimed credit for the attacks, which Afghan officials have attributed to the Haqqani network, a brutal wing of the Taliban.

The attacks occurred hours before a 6.2 magnitude earthquake along the northern border shook the country as far as Parwan province, where the largest U.S. airbase in Afghanistan is located in Bagram, and the capital. They came as Taliban insurgents have achieved further gains, overrunning two districts in separate northern provinces.

Officials said the blasts were part of complex attacks targeting two separate po-

lice stations. They appeared to be part of a rare coordinated attack in two different areas of the city.

The first attack in the western Dasht-e Barchi district of the Afghan capital, which is home to many members of the largely Shiite Hazara minority, began before noon. The Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, which has repeatedly targeted Shiites, later claimed responsibility for that attack. Polling places in the neighborhood have been attacked in recent weeks, killing dozens of people.

Kabul police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said there was a blast at the gate of the police station in that district. Police then killed two bombers who tried to enter the compound, ending the attack. Two police officers were killed and two wounded, Stanikzai said.

At least six wounded were transported to area hospitals, The Associated Press reported.

Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak blamed the attack on a lack of much-needed intelligence equipment. In a televised

news conference in the late afternoon, he said the incident would be investigated.

Shortly after the first attack, there were several more blasts — also followed by gunfire — near the police station in the Shahr-e Now neighborhood, a busy commercial district near the U.S. Embassy. The area also contains several fortified compounds occupied by international aid groups and Afghan government agencies. Barmak said five gunmen carried out the assault, which lasted several hours.

An Asian Development Bank compound and the office of a telecommunications company are located near the police station.

More than a dozen blasts were heard in the area, with sporadic gunfire continuing throughout the afternoon. Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said at least two suicide bombers targeted the station.

The New York Times reported that attackers had tried to enter the Asian Development Bank but were repulsed by guards. They then continued their assault after climbing a nearby building that was under construction.

In the late afternoon, the area remained cordoned off but the shooting had subsided, Stanikzai said. He said he could not provide details about casualties at that site.

A blast was heard later, around 5:30 p.m., shortly after the Taliban took control of the attack, claiming to have killed several police officials. Some reports said ISIS also claimed responsibility for the attack.

A nearby hospital had received casualties, an official said earlier in the day, but he could not provide more details.

An eyewitness said he saw the bodies of two dead police officers and a dead security guard.

The capital, once a relative safe haven in the restive country, has become one of the deadliest. The Western-backed government and its security forces are a frequent target of Taliban and ISIS violence, but several recent attacks have targeted voter registration centers and other civilian locations.

Stars and Stripes reporters J.P. Lawrence and Phillip Wellman contributed to this report.  
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## Afghan air force flies first mission with Black Hawks

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The Afghan air force has for the first time flown a mission with its newly delivered UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, officials said Wednesday.

The mission on Tuesday involved three choppers flown by Afghan air crews from Kandahar Air Field as they conducted reconnaissance of voter registration centers in Helmand province. It happened a day after 15 pilots and 16 special mission operators were deemed qualified on Black Hawks.

"Not only are these aircraft and students the physical embodiment of progress, but they also represent a generational shift from the older Soviet-trained forces to the younger and more progressive



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Afghan pilots fly the UH-60 Black Hawk for the first time during training with U.S. contractors at Kandahar Air Field in March.

Western-trained and educated fleet," said Brig. Gen. Phillip Stewart, head of Train, Advise and Assist Command-Air.

The Afghan air force now has four qualified Black Hawk crews. The nation will need crews for a

planned 159 Black Hawks to be added to the air force and the special mission wing by 2021.

The Pentagon predicts Afghanistan's battle-worn Mi-17 fleet

will become unsustainable by the middle of next year, largely because of a lack of parts and aging airframes.

The U.S. first introduced Mi-17s to Afghans to speed development of their air force. Sanctions against Russia after that country's intervention in Ukraine meant Afghans could not get spare parts to keep their Mi-17s flying.

When it was first announced, the switch to Black Hawks sparked some grumbling among Afghan pilots who said the Russian helicopters are simpler to maintain and have better "hot-and-high" performance — meaning they can carry more cargo and troops and operate at higher altitudes — a key consideration in a mountainous country like Afghanistan.

In response, Afghan Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Mohammad Shoaib said in a statement that Black Hawks are ideal for Afghanistan because they are suitable for the terrain and weather.

Recruiting Afghans with the required English-language skills to operate the Black Hawks remains a challenge, the Pentagon has stated. Security concerns have led to cancellation of multiple classes at Afghan Air University.

UH-60 training lasts 16 weeks and includes instruction at Fort Rucker, Ala., the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates. The Air Force expects more than 30 crews will be qualified by next spring.

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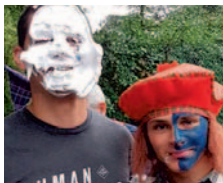
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## MILITARY

# Army tests mobile 3D printing in field

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — A 3D printing unit the Army tested during an exercise here this week could revolutionize how vehicles and other equipment are repaired on the battlefield.

The mobile unit, which was used in the field during the Combined Resolve 10 exercise, is called the Rapid Fabrication via Additive Manufacturing on the Battlefield — R-FAB, for short. The Army's first attempt at 3D printing on a large scale in a battlefield environment appeared well-received by troops.

"I think it added quite a bit of value to the fight," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rolando Rodriguez, who oversaw the printing during the exercise. "We were able to get systems up and running much faster than we would have been able to without it."

The R-FAB is essentially several 3D printers and scanners, modified to fit in a large, easily transportable workstation. Its main purpose is to print out hard-to-acquire vehicle parts and equipment that would otherwise take a long time to deliver to a remote location.

Once during the exercise, soldiers used the printing unit to make a specialized ball valve for a water-carrying system that in the past might have taken as long as a year to get. "If we couldn't print it, a brigade would have been without a water system, so we would have had to have people bring water to them on the road, exposed to the enemy," Rodriguez said. "Being able to do that kept them out of harm's way and kept more soldiers in the fight."

The R-FAB was used frequently during the exercise to create Humvee parts that are subject to a lot of wear and tear, such as door handles. In fact, many of the soldiers said the 3D-printed handles hold up better than the originals.

Besides crafting parts for vehicles, the R-FAB allowed soldiers to print custom modifications for their weapons, such as special foregrips and other accessories that aren't standard issue for M4 assault rifles.

"One of our biggest customers were soldiers who wanted to customize their weapon systems. This made them just a little more personalized and comfortable to use, which increased their effectiveness," Rodriguez said.

For now, the R-FAB prints items only in plastic, but printing in metal and other materials should eventually be possible.

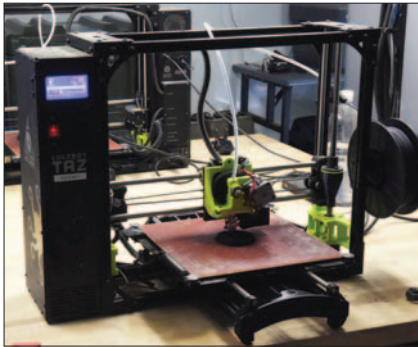
"I think you're going to see more (3D printing), as well as different types of materials, on the battlefield in the future," said civilian adviser and 3D-printing expert Jason Langley.

"Metal is one of the most frequently asked-for materials. It isn't currently field-capable, but when it is, I think you'll see it as well as other materials in the field environment."



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

An M4 assault rifle has a 3D-printed magazine well and foregrip made with the Rapid Fabrication via Additive Manufacturing 3D printing unit in Hohenfels, Germany, on Tuesday.



Tools and parts, above, printed with the Army's 3D unit, left, are displayed.



The Army's Rapid Fabrication via Additive Manufacturing 3D printing unit was being used at the Combined Resolve exercise in Hohenfels on Tuesday.

## Mississippi Guardsmen to join border patrol

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi National Guardsmen are being deployed to the southwest U.S.-Mexico border this week to assist with border security.

The Mississippi National Guard announced Tuesday that approximately 25 Lakota Company soldiers will deploy to the border for three weeks. They will provide aerial surveillance support for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol.

The deployment comes one month after President Donald Trump announced his intentions to patrol the border with National Guardsmen. It will be the fourth time the unit has conducted security operations at the southwest border.

Mississippi Republican Gov. Phil Bryant said in April that he "fully support(ed)" the president's decision to patrol the border.

A send-off ceremony will be conducted for the soldiers Friday at the Tupelo Army Aviation Support Facility.

## Death of US soldier in Alaska barracks probed

The Army is investigating the death of an Alaska-based soldier found dead in his barracks room Sunday morning.

Poof play is not suspected in the death of Pfc. Ruben Gonzalez III, 23, at Fort Wainwright, which is near Fairbanks, the Army said Tuesday.

Gonzalez was a cavalryman assigned to the 1st Striker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

He had enlisted in the Army in March 2017 in Indio, Calif., and had been assigned to U.S. Army Alaska since August 2017, the Army said.

## Twin Cities make pitch for Army headquarters

MINNEAPOLIS — Politicians, communities and companies in the Twin Cities are making a united pitch for a new military headquarters.

The Department of Defense's Army Futures Command will be a research and development headquarters that intends to partner with local talent on the next generation of technology innovations, The Star Tribune reported.

Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP, the Minneapolis-St. Paul region's development partnership, is coordinating the effort to attract the project. He must meet a Thursday deadline to present the department with a detailed case for the area.

Langley hopes the area's history of technical collaboration, its growing high-tech sector and its robust academic institutions will make it stand out.

Minnesota's entire federal delegation wrote a letter to an undersecretary of the Army focusing on the state's Fortune 500 companies. The letter also highlighted government contractors such as 3M, General Dynamics and Honeywell, as well as large science and technology organizations including Boston Scientific, the Mayo Clinic and UnitedHealth Group.

From staff and wire reports

## NATION

# Trump: GOP had 'great night' in primaries

By STEVE PEOPLES  
AND JOHN RABY  
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Republican voters rejected ex-convict Don Blankenship in a West Virginia Senate primary in which he sold himself as "Trumpier than Trump" but was vigorously opposed by Trump himself. GOP voters in Indiana, meanwhile, chose wealthy businessman Mike Braun over two sitting congressmen to lead the party's charge against a vulnerable Democratic senator in the fall.

President Donald Trump and his allies cheered the West Virginia result, which helped avert a potential political disaster for a GOP already bracing for major losses in the November midterm elections.

Trump said on Twitter on Wednesday that Republicans "had a great night." He added, "Tremendous voter energy and excitement, and all candidates are those who have a great chance of winning in November."

In both cases, Trump's party appears to have avoided the mistakes that doomed candidates in high-profile Senate races in the past. Clinging to a two-seat Senate majority, Republicans are well-positioned to challenge at least two Senate Democrats this fall — West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Indiana's Joe Donnelly — who are facing re-election in



RON AGNIN, THE (MARTINSBURG, W.Va.) JOURNAL/AP

**West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey speaks at his campaign headquarters Tuesday in Kearnsville, W.Va. Morrisey won the Republican U.S. Senate nomination in Tuesday's primary.**

the heart of Trump country.

The day's slate of early season elections tested the limits of the anti-establishment fervor that has defined the Trump era.

Hopelessly behind in West Virginia, Blankenship conceded defeat in the contest to determine Manchin's general election challenger.

The Republican president fought in the campaign's final days to defeat Blankenship, a retired coal executive, who remained popular among some West Virginia Republicans despite hav-

ing served a year in prison for his role in a deadly mine disaster and attacked the Asian heritage of the top Senate Republican's wife.

State Attorney General Patrick Morrisey claimed the nomination instead, promoting his record of challenging policies of the administration of former President Barack Obama and deflecting criticism of his roots in New Jersey, where he lost a 2000 congressional race.

Vice President Mike Pence congratulated Morrisey on Twitter, saying, "The great people of

WV need a senator who supports the #MAGA agenda."

The key Senate contests headlined primary elections across four states Tuesday that will help shape the political landscape in this fall's midterm elections. Control of Congress is at stake in addition to state governments across the nation.

In a possible sign of party unrest, however, Rep. Robert Pittenger lost in North Carolina to the Rev. Mark Harris, a Baptist pastor he narrowly beat two years ago. Pittenger is the first incumbent to lose his seat this primary season.

In most cases, the Republican candidates on the ballot had competed to be seen as the most conservative, the most anti-Washington and the most loyal to the Republican president.

In Indiana, Donnelly will face off in November against Braun, a multimillionaire owner of a national auto parts distribution business who loaned more than \$5.4 million of his own money to his campaign.

Another Indiana contest was less contentious. Greg Pence won the primary for the congressional seat his younger brother, now the vice president, once held. Pence is a Marine veteran and owner of two antique malls who once ran the now-bankrupt Chain of Tobacco Road convenience stores.

In Ohio's high-profile govern-

nor's race, Democrats nominated Obama-era consumer watchdog Richard Cordray while Republicans selected state Attorney General Mike DeWine.

An Ohio state senator won the Republican primary to succeed retiring Rep. Pat Tiberi. The race had become a proxy fight between Tiberi, a GOP moderate, and conservative Republican Rep. Jim Jordan. Tiberi's candidate, Troy Balderson, of Zanesville, pulled out a win.

On the local level, a woman who accused Trump of sexually harassing her more than a decade ago claimed the Democratic nomination in a race to represent an area southeast of Toledo in the state House of Representatives. Democrat Rachel Crooks, a 35-year-old university administrator, ran unopposed but must next win a November general election to become the first Trump accuser to hold elected office.

A bright spot for Republicans in swing-state Ohio was that GOP turnout was considerably stronger than Democratic voting in the open governor's race. With nearly two-thirds of the vote counted, 567,000 Republicans cast votes, to 412,000 Democrats.

U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci, with Trump's support, won the Republican primary to challenge Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown in November.

## Stormy Daniels' lawyer says Russian paid Trump attorney

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Stormy Daniels' lawyer said Tuesday he has information showing that Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's longtime personal attorney, received \$500,000 from a company associated with a Russian billionaire within months of paying him money to Daniels, a porn star who claims she had an affair with Trump.

Lawyer Michael Avenatti also said hundreds of thousands of dollars streamed into Cohen's account from companies, including pharmaceutical giant Novartis, AT&T and Korea Aerospace, with U.S. government business interests. AT&T confirmed

its connection Tuesday evening.

Avenatti did not reveal the source of his information or release documentation. But in a seven-page memo, Avenatti detailed what he said were wire transfers going into and out of the account Cohen used to pay Daniels \$130,000 in October 2016 to stay silent about her alleged affair with the soon-to-be president. Trump denies having an affair with Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford.

Financial documents reviewed Tuesday by The Associated Press appeared to back up Avenatti's report.

The memo, containing highly specific dates and amounts, stated that Viktor Vekselberg, a Russian billionaire, and his

cousin "routed" eight payments totaling approximately \$500,000 to Cohen's company, Essential Consultants, between January and August 2017. The reason for the payment was not known.

Avenatti's memo said the deposits into the account controlled by Cohen were made by Columbus Nova, an American investment company headed by Vekselberg's cousin Andrew Intrater and affiliated with the Renova Group, which is controlled by Vekselberg.

A spokesman for Vekselberg and the Renova Group said in a statement that "neither Victor Vekselberg nor Renova has ever had any contractual relationship with Mr. Cohen or Essential Consultants."

Columbus Nova's attorney, Richard Owens, stressed in a statement that the company is "solely owned and controlled by Americans" and said that, after Trump's inauguration, the firm hired Cohen as a business consultant "regarding potential sources of capital and potential investments in real estate and other ventures" but that it had nothing to do with Vekselberg.

Owens said any suggestion that Vekselberg used Columbus Nova as a conduit for payments to Cohen was false.

Cohen and his attorney did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Cohen is under investigation by federal prosecutors in New York but hasn't been charged.

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## NATION

# Mattis: US will work to halt Iran nuclear weapons

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis vowed Wednesday that the United States would work with its allies to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons, one day after President Donald Trump pulled out of a key agreement that temporarily halted the country's nuclear program.

"We have walked away from [the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] because we found it was inadequate for the long-term effort," Mattis told lawmakers during testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee. "We will work with our allies and try to bring Iran back into more responsible behavior."

## World reaction to the Iran deal decision

Page 15

The defense secretary said the decision to pull out of the JCPOA, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, was not his last.

The United States left the agreement, which was negotiated under former President Barack Obama, because it could not be fully ensured that the Iranians were living up to their end of the deal, Mattis said. However, in April, Mattis told lawmakers the agreement included a "pretty robust" verification system that appeared to be written under the assumption the Iranians would attempt "to cheat."

Though Mattis had previously said the agreement with Iran was less than perfect, this was the first time that he stated publicly that he supported withdrawing from it. He indicated the Trump administration would seek other avenues to curb Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons and address its ballistic missile program, its use of cyberattacks and its use of military vessels to disrupt commerce in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

"For over a year, we have attempted to work with allies to address the shortcomings [of the deal]," Mattis said. "I think we now have the opportunity to move forward and address those shortcomings and make it more compelling. That effort is underway already."

Trump had long vowed to walk away from the deal, making it a central theme of his presidential campaign. In announcing the U.S. withdrawal, Trump called the deal "defective at its core."

"If we do nothing, we know exactly what will happen," Trump said Tuesday afternoon during an address to the nation. "In just a short period of time, the world's leading state sponsor of terror will be on the cusp of acquiring the world's most dangerous weapons."

The nuclear deal was struck in 2015 with the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China and Russia signing it with Iran. In exchange for sanctions relief, Iran agreed to restrictions on its nuclear program and international inspec-

tions through 2031.

American allies, including Germany, Britain and France, unsuccessfully lobbied Trump to remain in the deal before his announcement to withdraw. French President Emmanuel Macron said those nations would remain in the agreement, adding that he expected Iran to continue to abide by it. Top Iranian officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, chastised Trump's decision in public remarks on Wednesday, The Associated Press reported.

Trump said Tuesday that he would reimpose economic sanctions and add new ones against Iran in an effort to "pressure the regime to alter its course of malign activities across the Middle East."

The first wave of sanctions — on Iran's currency, precious metals, aluminum and steel — will begin Aug. 6. A second round of sanctions will begin 90 days later and target Iran's central bank, oil and other energy sectors and shipping industry, the White House said.

Mattis on Wednesday ticked off a list of locations where he said Iran has engaged in "malicious and malign" behavior including Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria, where he said Iran was guilty of ensuring President Bashar Assad has remained in power through a brutal seven-year civil war.

"Assad is still in power today, still murdering his own people," Mattis said. "Without [Iran and Russia] he would have fallen

to his own peoples' revolt."

Democratic senators Wednesday expressed their dismay to Mattis about Trump's decision to leave the deal, telling the defense secretary that they believed it would only raise tensions with Iran's regime.

"This is a big mistake," said Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M. "It splits us from our allies and puts us on a path to war with Iran."

Mattis said he did not foresee war with Iran, telling the panel that he did not plan to ask for additional funding to pay for combat operations against that nation.

However, he added, "Should Iran do something, now that is another issue."

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the subcommittee's top Democrat, decried Trump's decision, telling Mattis that it would ultimately cripple the ability of the United States to monitor Iran's weapons programs.

"Equally important, and you've acknowledged it, our allies have joined us in sticking their necks out — France, Germany, U.K., the European Union. China and Russia even joined us to make certain that this agreement had universal support beyond Iran," he said. "I cannot believe it will inspire any confidence in our allies, our work, and our reliability in the future when it comes to these agreements."

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# Detainees: Secretary of state returning to US with the freed Americans

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The lack of a formal announcement fueled speculation that the sides were having trouble agreeing on issues related to the talks over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Later Wednesday, Trump told South Korean President Moon Jae-in on the phone that he will soon announce the time and place, according to Moon's office.

"President Trump said Pompeo and Kim Jong Un had very productive discussions," the Yonhap News Agency said, a presidential official as saying.

## Granted amnesty

One major U.S. demand has been the release of the three Korean-Americans — Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim — being held by the North on accusations of anti-state activities.

The stakes were high because Trump has been hinting that the men's release was imminent so failure to secure it would have been deeply embarrassing.

The men were freed after a 90-minute meeting between Pompeo and Kim Jong Un, according to a pool report. North Korean officials reportedly said they had been granted amnesty.

Blue House spokesman Yoon Young-chan said the release "will be a positive factor for the success of the North Korea-United States summit."

Tony Kim's family also expressed gratitude to all who worked for his freedom in a statement.



APN YOUNG-JOON/AP

People watch a TV news report on May 3 showing portraits of three Americans — from left, Kim Dong Chul, Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song — detained in North Korea. President Donald Trump said the detainees have been freed and "seem to be in good health."

"We also want to thank the President for engaging directly with North Korea," it added. "Mostly, we thank God for Tony's safe return."

The secretary of state also discussed the summit agenda with Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the central committee of North Korea's ruling party.

The secretary of state, who previously traveled to Pyongyang in early April as the head of the CIA, told the North Koreans they could "have all the opportunities you people so richly deserve" if they give up their nuclear weapons.

"For decades, we have been

adversaries," he told Kim Yong Chol. "Now we are hopeful that we can work together to resolve this conflict."

Kim Yong Chol stressed that the diplomatic push and efforts to improve relations with South Korea were part of a policy to "concentrate all efforts into economic progress" for the country.

"This is not a result of sanctions that have been imposed from outside," he added, citing the will of the Korean people.

## Secret mission

Pompeo's trip was shrouded in secrecy. He was accompanied by

senior aides, a security detail and a journalist each from The Associated Press and The Washington Post.

Trump revealed the mission Tuesday afternoon as he announced the United States was withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Critics have warned that reneging on that deal could jeopardize negotiations with the North.

After landing in Pyongyang, a motorcade took the U.S. delegation to the Korea Hotel, which is frequently used for foreigners.

Pompeo became only the second sitting secretary of state to visit the reclusive nation after Madeleine Albright went in 2000 as part of an unsuccessful bid to arrange a meeting between then-President Bill Clinton and Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il.

Concern about the three detainees has risen since U.S. college student Otto Warmbier died in June after he was returned in a coma to the United States following more than a year of detention in the North for allegedly stealing a propaganda poster.

Kim Dong Chul, a former Virginia resident, was arrested in October 2015 and convicted of espionage and sentenced in April 2016 to 10 years in prison with hard labor.

He reportedly ran a trade and hotel service company in Rason, a special economic zone on North Korea's border with Russia.

Kim Hak Song worked in agricultural development at an experimental farm run by the Pyongyang University of Science and Technol-

ogy. He was detained last May for alleged anti-state activities.

Tony Kim, who also uses the name Kim Sang-duk, was detained in April 2017 at the Pyongyang airport. He taught accounting at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology.

The White House said separately that Trump "appreciates" Kim Jong Un's action in releasing the detainees and "views this as a positive gesture of goodwill."

## Diplomatic momentum

The decision to free the men was the latest in a series of diplomatic gains that have eased tensions after more than a decade of North Korean missile and nuclear tests and threats of war.

Kim Jong Un also traveled to China earlier this week, his second trip to the North's communist benefactor in less than two months. His second summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping was widely interpreted as showing that Beijing will insist on maintaining influence over the rapidly unfolding events.

The 34-year-old North Korean leader also met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27 in the heavily fortified border that has divided the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The two Koreas agreed to seek a formal end to the war and to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the peninsula.

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NATION

# CIA pick declares 'moral compass' would guide her

BY DEB RIECHMANN  
AND KIM FREKING  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's nominee to be CIA director said Wednesday that she does not believe torture works and she would not carry out any presidential order she thought was immoral.

Facing tough questioning by members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Gina Haspel said her "moral compass is strong."

"I would not allow CIA to undertake activity that I thought was immoral, even if it was technically legal," said Haspel, a 33-year veteran of the agency. "I would absolutely not permit it."

She was responding to a question about what she would do if she received a directive from Trump that she found to be morally objectionable.

Trump has said she supports subjecting terrorism suspects to harsh interrogation tactics like waterboarding, which simulates drowning, and a "hell of a lot worse." Haspel said Wednesday she doesn't believe Trump would ask her to resume waterboarding and that CIA must undertake activities consistent with American values.

Haspel, 61, faces what will likely be a close confirmation vote in the full Senate, in part because she was chief of base of a covert detention site in Thailand where terrorism suspects were waterboarded.

Protesters shouting "Prosecute the torturers!" and "Bloody Gina" disrupted the hearing several times, and police escorted them out of the room. Haspel was stone-faced throughout.

Haspel said that she agrees with others at the CIA who have said that valuable information was obtained during the debriefing of al-Qaida detainees. But she adds that it's not known whether harsh interrogation techniques "played a role in that."

Haspel said the spy agency learned "tough lessons" from its use of harsh detention and interrogation tactics on terrorism suspects after 9/11.

It is important to recall the context of those challenging times immediately following 9/11," she said. "Having served in that tumultuous time, I can offer you my personal commitment, clearly and without reservation, that under my leadership, CIA will not restart such a detention and interrogation program."

Committee chairman Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who supports Haspel, stressed that the hearing was not about the now-defunct CIA interrogation program but about who should lead



JOE GRONELSH/Stars and Stripes

**CIA Deputy Director Gina Haspel, President Donald Trump's nominee to head the agency, awaits the start of a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Wednesday.**

the agency in the future.

Haspel said that being in the public spotlight is new for her because she spent more than 30 years "in the shadows" working undercover and acquiring secret information from dead drops and meetings in dusty back alleys of Third World capitals.

She portrayed herself as a "typical middle-class American with a 'strong sense of right and wrong' who just doesn't happen to have any social media accounts. She said she was born in Kentucky and, while her family has deep roots there, she grew up as an Air Force "brat," following her father to postings all over the world.

Haspel emphasized her experience, saying, "I know CIA like the back of my hand."

"I joined CIA in 1985 as a case officer in the clandestine service," she said. "From my first days in training, I had a knack for the nuts and bolts of my profession. I excelled in finding and acquiring secret information."

Haspel's fate hinges on how well she fields tough questions from senators who ask about details of her time running a covert detention site where terrorism suspects were waterboarded and seek an explanation for why she wanted videos of the sessions destroyed.

Last month, the CIA released a memo showing Haspel was cleared of wrongdoing in destroying the tapes. The Justice Department also investigated, but no charges were filed.

Haspel's critics outside Congress argue that anyone who willingly participated in one of the CIA's darkest chapters should not head the spy agency. They argue that having Haspel as the face of U.S. intelligence will undercut America's effort to champion human rights.

# 'Kink community' angry at depiction by Schneiderman

BY DAVID CRARY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Many members of what's widely known as the "kink community" are outraged that Eric Schneiderman, in resigning as New York's attorney general, depicted his alleged violence toward several women as "role-playing and other consensual sexual activity."

Aficionados of kinky sex noted that Schneiderman's accusers insisted they had given no consent — which is considered obligatory among most practitioners of kink.

The story brought new attention to the world of kink that's often known as BDSM — standing for variations of bondage, dominance, submission and masochism. The practice has made incursions into the cultural mainstream in recent years, in part because of the popularity of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" novels and films.

However, some of Schneiderman's critics noted that "Fifty Shades" hero Christian Grey meticulously negotiates a contract with Anastasia Steele before she agrees to submit to his demands.

The Schneiderman story was the topic of conversation on various online communities on social media and blogs devoted to the subculture of BDSM. Seattle dominatrix Mistress Matisse called any non-negotiated encounter "ABUSE. End of story." Others expressed hope that it would increase public understanding of BDSM and help highlight the distinction between its traditions and nonconsensual violence.

Ronan Farrow, co-author of the New Yorker story that first revealed the allegations against Schneiderman, told CNN that the accusers made clear "that this was not 'role-playing, that this was not 'Fifty Shades of Grey.' It wasn't in a gray area at all."

There have been previous cases where a man accused of violence



AP

**Eric Schneiderman, shown last year, resigned Monday as New York state attorney general after several women accused him of violently slapping and choking them during romantic encounters.**

toward women contended that the incidents in question occurred during consensual "rough sex."

That was the gist of the defense by Jian Ghomeshi, a former Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio host who was acquitted in 2016 of multiple charges of sexual assault involving three women. He was fired after the allegations surfaced.

The anger directed at Schneiderman echoed, in some ways, the LGBT's community's outrage at Kevin Spacey after he was accused by fellow actor Anthony Rapp of making sexual advances on him during a party in 1986, when Rapp was 14 and Spacey was 26. Many gay activists were furious that Spacey, in asserting he didn't remember an encounter with Rapp, took the opportunity to come out as a gay man — a step he'd previously avoided despite long-running speculation about

his sexual orientation.

Jillian Keenan, author of the BDSM memoir "Sex with Shakespeare," mentioned both Spacey and Ghomeshi in an email to The Associated Press reflecting on the Schneiderman case.

"Just as sex without consent is rape, kink without consent doesn't exist — that's assault," Keenan wrote.



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## NATION

# Purported son of Manson could be out of estate fight

By BRIAN MELLEY  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One of the purported sons of Charles Manson could soon be out of the legal battle over the late cult leader's estate after failing to show up in court.

Matthew Lentz, who claims he was fathered by Manson at a 1967 orgy, looked disheveled and frazzled when he arrived at Los Angeles Superior Court after the brief hearing concluded in the probate case of the late cult leader.

Another supposed son, Michael Brunner, filed papers to drop his claims as an alleged heir to the convicted murderer.



Manson

If the two drop out, it would pit a purported grandson against a pen pal who has filed a will that names him as sole beneficiary to the potentially lucrative estate.

At least three people claiming kinship to the killer and two so-called murderabilia collectors who befriended the inmate have emerged in the court fight since Manson, 83, died in a hospital in November while serving a life sentence for orchestrating the 1969 killings of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and eight others.

Lentz, who doesn't have a lawyer, lamented his late arrival and said he feared he would be out of luck because he had hoped to forge an alliance with Brunner, who has been represented by counsel.

"I blew it," Lentz said outside

court. "I wasted how many years of my life for this dumb crap? For what?"

Lentz is listed as sole beneficiary in a 2017 will that names memorabilia collector Ben Gurecki as executor. Others have claimed the will is a fraud.

Wearing an inside-out plaid shirt, Lentz clenched a plastic case overflowing with the rambling letters from Manson that he hoped would sway a judge to believe he was his son.

The judge said Lentz had until a July 13 hearing to show why he shouldn't be dismissed from the case.

A lawyer for Brunner filed papers to dismiss his case. Attorney Daniel Mortensen was not in court and did not return phone calls seeking comment on why he was dropping out.

Brunner's mother was a former Manson family member and he is



BRIAN MELLEY/AP

Matthew Lentz, who said he was fathered by Charles Manson, stands outside Los Angeles Superior Court on Tuesday. He arrived too late for a hearing to consider claims on Manson's estate.

widely believed to be Manson's offspring.

Brunner had been among those who also fought in court over the right to collect the body of Manson for burial.

That round was won by Jason Freeman, a purported grandson and former mixed martial arts

fighter from Florida. He had the remains cremated and scattered the ashes after a brief private funeral in March.

Michael Channels, who befriended Manson by mail and sold his songs and artwork, is also fighting for the estate. The will he filed names him as executor.

## Priest accused of abusing 2 boys, making one say confession later

Associated Press

A Roman Catholic priest was arrested and charged Tuesday with sexually abusing at least two boys during his four decades in the Erie, Pa., diocese and making one of them say confession after the alleged assaults.

State Attorney General Josh Shapiro announced the arrest of the Rev. David Poulson, 64, of Oil City, as part of a statewide grand jury investigation. According to court records, Poulson is facing at least eight charges, including indecent assault and child endangerment, for incidents dating to 2002.

Court records did not list an attorney for Poulson, and a phone call to a number listed for him was not answered Tuesday. Poulson was being held on \$300,000 cash bail. He faces a maximum of 64 years, if convicted, and \$135,000 in fines.

Prosecutors said Poulson resigned from the diocese in February after a phone call was received a month earlier from a military chaplain in Fort Hood, Texas, saying a 23-year-old had disclosed he was being abused by Poulson starting when he was 8 years old.

Poulson allegedly abused one of his victims in multiple church rectories more than 20 times while the victim served as an altar boy, according to a news release from the attorney general's office. Poulson would then require the boy to make confession to him and confess the sexual assault to receive absolution, it said.

"This was the ultimate betrayal and manipulation by Poulson — he used the tools of the priesthood to further his abuse," Shapiro wrote.

The allegations also state Poulson took that victim and another boy at separate times to a secluded hunting camp without electricity or running water where he would watch horror movies with them on his laptop then assault them.

Prosecutors said the Erie Diocese had received complaints about what they say were Poulson's "sexual predator tendencies" as far back as 2010 but did not report him to law enforcement until the grand jury issued a subpoena in September 2016.

Bishop Lawrence Persico released a statement late Tuesday denying that the diocese knew of these specific allegations until January of this year when the chaplain called.



PAUL SANCIA/AP

Authorities search along a rural wooded area in Macomb Township, Mich., on Tuesday for the remains of a 12-year-old girl last seen in 1979 and possibly other bodies.

## Excavation for girls' remains set to resume

Associated Press

MACOMB TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Authorities were set to resume excavation work in a wooded area northeast of Detroit for the remains of a 12-year-old girl and the bodies of up to six others missing for decades.

Warren police, the FBI and other agencies started work at the site in Macomb Township on Monday and began digging in earnest Tuesday with shovels and excavation equipment for Kimberly King's remains before ending for the day. The work was to restart Wednesday.

King was last seen in 1979 in Warren. Police began searching the Macomb Township site after speaking with a man serving life in prison for the slaying of another girl whose body was found near the wooded area about 30 miles northeast of downtown Detroit.

"We have probable cause to

believe that (Kimberly) is buried there," said Bill Dwyer, Warren's police commissioner. "We also believe that there's maybe four to six other girls that have been reported missing that are buried there. We certainly are convinced we have the right area. It's just a sad type of situation."

Dwyer did not give the names of the other missing girls.

In 2008, Arthur Ream led police to the body of Cindy Zarzycki, 13, in the wooded area. She was last seen in 1986 after being lured to a Dairy Queen in Eastpointe, just north of Detroit.

Ream was convicted of first-degree murder in her slaying. After his conviction, Ream told investigators that Zarzycki's body was buried near a creek. He also drew a map of the site and spent about an hour at the search scene with authorities before being returned to prison.

## Security chief: Glitch caused Pruitt's missed flight

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — On a trip to Morocco last year, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and his staff missed a connecting flight and spent more than 24 hours in Paris because his security detail's weapons and other gear couldn't be transferred between the planes in time, his former security chief told congressional staffers last week.

That's according to aides to the House oversight committee, which is investigating Pruitt's pricey taxpayer-funded travel, including the use of premium seats by the

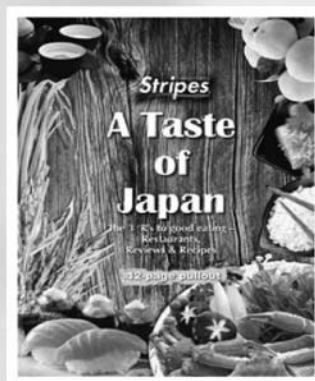
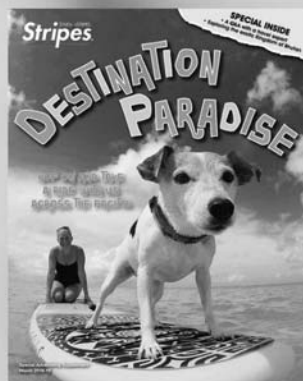
embattled administrator and his security chief, Pasquale "Nino" Perrotta's early retirement from EPA was announced shortly before he met with oversight committee staff. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss Perrotta's closed-door interview.

Perrotta's account differed from the EPA's official explanation for Pruitt's lengthy Paris layover in December, which the agency had blamed on poor weather. While it is true that Pruitt's departure from Washington was delayed by snow, a review of flight records by The

Associated Press shows he could have made a connecting flight and a reserved back-up flight to Morocco if not for the complications over his security team's weapons and gear.

Members of the House oversight committee and other lawmakers are looking into the costs and justification for the Paris and Morocco trip, arranged with the help of a lobbyist and dealing in part with potential natural gas deals between the U.S. and Morocco. The EPA's inspector general is conducting separate investigations into Pruitt's travel, security spending and other issues.

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## NATION



JAMM AQUINO, HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER/AP

Lava overruns Hookehupue Street in Pahoehoe, Hawaii, on Monday. The Kilauea volcano has destroyed homes and spewed lava, leaving evacuated residents unsure how long they might be displaced.

# New vents prompt Hawaii police to roust residents

By CALEB JONES  
AND SOPHIA YAN  
Associated Press

PAHOEHOE, Hawaii — Police went door-to-door in Hawaii to roust residents near two new vents emitting dangerous gases in areas where lava has been pouring into streets and backyards for the past week.

Authorities ordered nearly 2,000 residents to leave two communities in the mostly rural district of Puna on Hawaii's Big Island last Thursday. Some ignored the order and stayed to watch over their property.

But on Tuesday, the emergence of the two new vents prompted Hawaii County to issue a cell-phone alert ordering stragglers in Lanipuna Gardens to get out immediately. Police followed up with personal visits.

"There were a number of people at their residences," Talmadge Magno, the administrator for Hawaii County Civil Defense, said at a news briefing. There was no sign of holdouts in Lanipuna afterward, he said.

Edwin Montoya, 76, had planned to stay to care for animals and keep looters away from his family's property in neighboring Leilani Estates. He was forced to evacuate after the new fissures emerged, including one just a mile away.

"I'm in my truck right now on my way up the road," he said. "The police came down here and made me."

Both communities are in a forested, remote part of the Big Island on the eastern flank of Kilauea



CALEB JONES/AP

**Resident Raylene Lerum and Maj. Ryan Morrissey, of the U.S. National Guard, survey damage in the Leilani Estates subdivision near Pahoehoe on Tuesday.**

volcano, which has been erupting continuously since 1983.

In recent years the volcano has mostly released lava in hard-to-reach areas inside a national park or along the coastline. But last week, vents popped open and released lava, gas and steam inside residential neighborhoods.

There's no indication when the eruption might stop or how far the lava might spread.

There were about 1,700 residents in Leilani Estates and a few hundred in Lanipuna Gardens before last week.

Andrew Nisbet evacuated last

week and has no idea what has happened since.

"My home is right in the line of the major breakouts so maybe, maybe not," he said Monday during a community meeting.

Authorities urged Scott Wiggers to evacuate, but he refused. "I'm in the safest part in the subdivision," said Wiggers, a tour guide. "There's no threat to my house whatsoever."

Wiggers said he wasn't leaving his home on the outskirts of the evacuation zone because he worried that if he did he wouldn't be able to get back in. But he's prepared in case the situation takes a turn.

"I am packed. My truck is loaded," he said. "I'm not a dumb-dumb. If I see a threat, I'm out of here."

Officials warn that lava could flow downhill and burn areas that are not currently in danger, and toxic volcanic gas could kill people, especially the elderly and those with breathing problems.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige told evacuees he has called the White House and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to tell officials that he believes the state will need help to deal with the volcano on the Big Island.

There are 14 lava- and gas-producing fissures in Leilani Estates after the two new ones formed Tuesday. But the flow of lava is not constant.

A total of 36 structures, including 26 confirmed homes, have been destroyed. Aerial surveys cannot make out whether some of the structures are homes or other types of buildings.

# Rockefellers' art collection fetches \$646M at auction

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A collection of artwork put together by billionaire David Rockefeller that includes pieces from Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet and Georgia O'Keeffe brought in more than \$646 million on the first night of an auction.

Highlights of the Tuesday sale at Christie's included "Young Girl with a Flower Basket," a 1905 painting by Pablo Picasso which fetched \$115 million, the second-highest price at auction for the artist.

Paintings by Claude Monet and Henri Matisse also garnered new record prices for the artists. Monet's "Water Lilies in Bloom," completed between 1914 and 1917, sold for a record \$84.6 million, and Matisse's "Odalisque reclining with magnolias" sold for a record \$80.7 million.

Christie's says the proceeds will be distributed to a number of philanthropies Rockefeller and his wife, Peggy, supported in their lifetimes.

Rockefeller was the last sur-

viving grandson of Standard Oil founder John D. Rockefeller when he died in March 2017 at the age of 101. He and Peggy had been married for more than 50 years. She died in 1996.

The couple amassed a massive collection of art, furniture, ceramics, statuary and decor. The collection also includes items that were passed down from previous Rockefeller generations.

Tuesday's evening sale focused on 19th- and 20th-century art and also includes works from Paul Gauguin and Georges Seurat.

Art of the Americas will go on the block on Wednesday night. It includes works from Willem de Kooning, Edward Hopper and John Singer Sargent.

Other sale sessions at Christie's will focus on furniture, ceramics and decorations, while an online auction will offer personal mementos, lamps and lighting and tableware.

Among the high-profile items is a porcelain dessert service that Napoleon took with him into exile.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

**Jussi Pylkanen, the global president of Christie's, oversees the sale of Henri Matisse's "Odalisque reclining with magnolias" during an art auction on Tuesday in New York.**

# Mormons to sever ties with Scouts, start own program

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon church said Tuesday it will sever all ties with the Boy Scouts of America at the end of next year and place its remaining 425,000 boys into a gospel-focused youth program it is developing.

The move ends a nearly century-old relationship that was based on their shared values. The announcement by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Boy Scouts didn't come as a complete surprise after the religion last year removed 185,000 boys between the ages of 14 and 18, signaling that an end to the long-time alliance was near.

Joining the Boy Scouts is practically automatic among Mormon boys, and the religion has long

been the biggest sponsor of Boy Scout troops in the United States. The Mormon boys who will be leaving represent about 18.5 percent of the 2.3 million youth in the organization.

The Mormon church said in a statement that the move is about creating its own youth program that it can use for its increasingly global membership, but the two organizations' values clearly have been diverging in recent years.

The Boy Scouts decided in 2015 to allow gay troop leaders and announced last year it would allow girls in its ranks.

Last week, the organization said it will change the name of its flagship program next year to Scouts BSA to account for the inclusion of girls.

## WORLD

# Iran reacts angrily to withdrawal from deal

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader chastised President Donald Trump on Wednesday over his decision to pull America out of the 2015 nuclear deal, while lawmakers lit a paper U.S. flag on fire inside parliament, shouting, "Death to America!"

The government backlash reflected broad public anger in Iran over Trump's decision, which threatens to destroy the landmark agreement. While Iranian officials, including the parliament speaker, say they hope Europe will work with them to preserve the deal, many are pessimistic.

In comments before schoolteachers, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Trump, "You cannot do a damn thing!" The exhortation from Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, follows a pattern of Iranian leaders declaring their nation's ability to resist foreign pressure or interference.

Khamenei described Trump's speech Tuesday announcing his decision as having "over 10 lies," without elaborating on them. He also said Trump's remarks

threatened both Iran's people and its theocratic government.

"The body of this man, Trump, will turn to ashes and become the food of the worms and ants while the Islamic Republic continues to stand," Khamenei said.

Earlier Wednesday, the lawmakers, including a Shiite cleric, held the flaming flag alight as their colleagues joined their chants. They also burned a piece of paper representing the nuclear deal and stomped on the papers' ashes.

While U.S. flag-burning is common in Iran and harsh criticism of America has been a staple of Iranian parliamentary politics for years, it was the first time political observers could remember anything being burned inside the parliament.

Other powers involved in the Iran nuclear agreement expressed regret at Trump's decision.

Signatories to the 2015 deal to curb the Islamic republic's nuclear ambitions urged Trump not to fundamentally undermine the U.N. Security Council-endorsed agreement so that the other parties — Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and Iran — can continue to respect it.



AP

**Lawmakers burn pieces of paper depicting the U.S. flag and the nuclear deal as they chant slogans against the U.S. at the parliament in Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday.**

"Together, we emphasize our continuing commitment to (the deal). This agreement remains important for our shared security," French President Emmanuel Macron,

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May said in a joint statement Tuesday after discussing the move.

The three called on Washington to "ensure that the structures of (the agreement) can remain intact, and to avoid taking action which obstructs its full implementation by all other parties to the deal."

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the U.S. president's decision as "a historic move." Netanyahu has long been an opponent of an agreement that he said would never remove the danger of Tehran developing nuclear weapons. Trump cited Israel's recently reshaped revelations about intelligence showing that Iran had previously lied about its program as one reason to pull out.

Saudi Arabia also welcomed Trump's move in a statement published on the state-run news agency, saying that Iran had exploited the agreement's economic benefits to continue destabilizing activities in the region by developing ballistic missiles and supporting militias — issues not addressed in the accord.

## Netanyahu, Putin meet amid new Syria strikes

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled on Wednesday to Moscow, where he and President Vladimir Putin will discuss military coordination amid new strikes in Syria blamed on Israel.

Syrian state media said Israel struck a military outpost near the capital, Damascus, on Tuesday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the missiles targeted depots and rocket launchers that likely belonged to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard in Kisweh, killing at least 15 people, eight of them Iranians.

Tensions between Israel and Iran are high over Iran's efforts to expand its military presence in Syria, where it is a key ally of President Bashar Assad. Repeated airstrikes attributed to Israel have killed Iranian fighters and prompted threats of reprisal from Tehran.

President Donald Trump's announcement Tuesday that the U.S. would withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran has triggered uncertainty and threatened to spark more unrest in the Middle East.

"The meetings between us are always important and this one is especially so," Netanyahu said ahead of his departure. "In light of what is currently happening in Syria, it is necessary to ensure the continued coordination" between the two militaries. Netanyahu made no mention of the overnight strikes.

The Israeli and Russian militaries have been in contact throughout much of Russia's intervention in Syria, where Moscow has waged an air campaign

in support of Assad's forces since 2015. Russia also considers Iran a strategic ally.

Israel views Iran as its arch-enemy, citing Iran's calls for Israel's destruction, support for militant groups across the region and growing military activity in neighboring Syria. Israel has warned that it will not allow Iran to establish a permanent military presence in Syria.

Israel's military went on high alert Tuesday and bomb shelters were ordered open in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights following reports of "irregular activity of Iranian forces in Syria." After an uneventful night, the military Wednesday called on residents to return to "full civilian routine," meaning studies and excursions would continue as usual, although the shelters would remain open.

The Syrian Observatory said the casualty number from Tuesday's strike is likely to go up because of a large number of people who were wounded and a number of people who are missing.

Iran has vowed to retaliate against recent Israeli strikes in Syria targeting Iranian outposts, including an attack last month on Syria's T4 air base in Homs province that killed seven Iranian military personnel.

Amos Gilad, a retired senior Israeli defense official, told a security conference in the coastal town of Herzliya that Iran's intention in Syria meant a wider conflagration may only be a matter of time.

"They want to build a second Hezbollah-istan," he said, referring to the Iran-backed Lebanese Shiite militant group that last fought a war with Israel in 2006. "They've determined to do it and we are determined to prevent it. It means we are on a collision course."



DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

## Victory Day celebration

**People climb a World War II Soviet IS-3, Joseph Stalin-3 heavy tank after the Victory Day military parade at Dvortsovaya (Palace) Square in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Wednesday. Victory Day is Russia's most important secular holiday, commemorating the Red Army's determination and losses in World War II.**

## Yemeni rebels fire missiles at Saudi capital

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIEHI

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Yemen's Shiite rebels fired ballistic missiles at the Saudi capital Wednesday, according to the rebels and Saudi state TV, which said they were intercepted by the military.

The cross-border attack by the Iran-allied rebels, known as Houthis, came amid mounting regional tensions after President Donald Trump decided to with-

draw from the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Saudi forces have intercepted Houthi missiles several times since March 2015, when a Saudi-led coalition launched a war against the rebels and their allies after they captured much of northern Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa.

The rebel-run Al-Masirah TV said Wednesday's missiles hit their targets with "high accuracy."

The statement said in Yemen has killed more than 10,000 civil-

ians and displaced 3 million others, pushing the Arab world's poorest country to the brink of famine. Saudi Arabia has also imposed an air and sea blockade on Yemen.

The U.S., which is one of the kingdom's most important military suppliers, has backed the coalition with logistical support.

The United Nations, Western nations and Saudi Arabia say Iran supplies the Houthis with long-range missiles capable of reaching Riyadh. Iran denies arming them.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man kills pets, burns home due to mites

**PA** SIMPSON — Authorities said a man told police he set fire to his house after stabbing and strangling more than a dozen pets because he believed the residence was infested with mites.

Carbondale police said the 41-year-old man was seen walking away from the burning Fell Township home Friday.

Officials said he was found Saturday and that he killed 13 to 14 cats and two dogs, piled brush and branches in the basement, poured gas and set the home ablaze.

Chief Brian Bognatz said the man, who has a history of mental illness, said he believed the house was infested with mites and that burning it down would solve the problem.

## Mom sues zoo where kangaroo bit child's ear

**AL** HUNTSVILLE — A woman is suing the owners of an Alabama zoo where her 9-year-old daughter was bitten by a kangaroo.

News outlets reported that a lawsuit filed Friday by Jennifer White accuses Harmony Park Safari owners William Keith Allen and Shannon Allen of negligence and wantonness in connection with the May 2017 attack. According to video footage, a kangaroo named Erwin reached through the fence to grab the girl and bite her ear.

The girl was hospitalized and received 14 stitches. The lawsuit says the girl also suffered mental damage. Erwin had a past history of violence, and the lawsuit accuses the Allens of failing to accordingly protect zoo visitors.

## Police: Man stole \$20 in gas to fuel stolen car

**NJ** LINDHURST — Police in New Jersey said the driver of a pickup truck later identified as stolen sped away from a gas station without paying for a tank of gas.

Lynchhurst police Capt. John Valente said the driver of the 2012 Dodge Ram truck sped out of a local gas station after refueling with \$20 worth of gas early Monday. The Record reported that the gas station attendant was able to record the license plate.

When authorities ran the registration, it showed that the car was stolen out of Westfield on Sunday. Valente said police did a check of the area but were unable to find the suspect.

## Child in car seat falls out of moving vehicle

**MA** NORTHAMPTON — Authorities said a child in a car seat tumbled out of a moving car on a Massachusetts roadway but did not suffer any serious injuries.

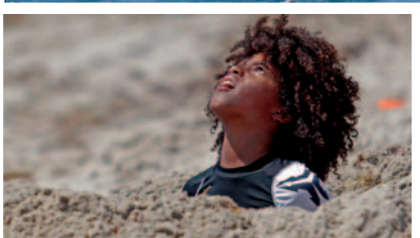
Police said the 2-year-old had managed to open the door and fell out of the vehicle as it was turning on a street in Northampton on Monday.

Investigators said the car seat

## THE CENSUS

# 134

The speed that New Hampshire state police say a man was driving on Interstate 93. Police said the radar reading was taken early Sunday in Bow, and a trooper was able to stop the vehicle. The driver, Cody Lang, 25, of Concord, was arrested on charges of speeding and aggravated driving under the influence. He is scheduled to be arraigned on Friday.



PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCALL, SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL/AP

## Aerobatic fanatic

Above: The Lucas Oil aerobatic plane performs during the Fort Lauderdale Air Show in Florida on Sunday. The show features some of the nation's most popular military jet demonstrations, parachute teams, civilian aerobatic acts and formation flight teams. Left: A young spectator buried in sand looks up to watch the show.

was not properly secured.

The driver was cited for an improper restraint violation. Criminal charges are being considered.

## Man charged with samurai sword killing

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis man is charged with killing another man with a samurai sword and then stealing the victim's cellphone and sport utility vehicle.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Seth Herter, 29, is jailed on \$1 million bond on a charge of first-degree murder in the fatal stabbing of Christopher McCarthy, 55, who lived near the suburb of Fenton. McCarthy was found dead May 3 in Herter's apartment.

Police later found Herter with "blood all over his clothing." Police said Herter admitted killing McCarthy with a sword and told police he was traveling to Mexico.

Herter also was charged Saturday with armed criminal action, stealing a motor vehicle and theft of a cellphone.

## Man sentenced for stealing from mom, 90

**SD** ALEXANDRIA — An Alexandria man has been sentenced to serve 10 years in prison for stealing from his ailing 90-year-old mother.

A jury in March found Kenneth Hauge guilty of theft by exploitation for stealing more than \$30,000 from his mother's financial assets while she was at a nursing home in Mitchell. Hauge had been given his mother's power of attorney.

The Daily Republic reported that Hauge was on parole for a previous felony drug conviction when he was arrested for stealing from his mother. That meant he was classified as a habitual offender.

He was ordered to pay nearly \$32,000 in restitution and to have no contact with his mother.

## Person lying on highway hit, killed by vehicle

**SC** SHILOH — Officials said they're trying to figure out why a man was lying on a South Carolina highway be-

fore being hit by a car and killed.

The State newspaper, of Columbia, reported the pedestrian was struck early Sunday morning on a Sumter County highway.

South Carolina Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Matt Southern said the pedestrian was lying in the northbound lane of SC-53 and was wearing dark clothing that made him almost invisible to the motorist.

WIS-TV reported that the county coroner identified the victim as Reggie Fulwood, 51, of Lynchburg.

## Police: Obituaries used to find burglary targets

**NY** GREENBURGH — Police in the suburbs of New York City said a woman was using local obituaries to choose victims to rob while they were attending funeral services.

Greenburgh police said Saturday that a 26-year-old Bronx woman was charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and other charges.

Investigators said they noticed a pattern in the robberies: All of the people targeted were recently featured in obituaries as next of

kin. The obituaries offered detailed funeral arrangements.

Police said the woman robbed the families while they were at funeral services. Police said they found stolen property from a February burglary during the arrest.

## Cop's mom shoots, wounds home intruder

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Authorities said the mother of a police officer shot and wounded an intruder who broke into her Philadelphia home.

Maxine Thompson told WPVI-TV that she had never used her gun before Saturday, when she heard someone trying to get inside her house. She said she fired at the intruder when he got to her bedroom door and then chased him out of the building the same way he came in.

Investigators said the intruder went to a nearby car wash and called police. When officers arrived, they found him suffering from a graze wound to the arm. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

From wire reports



## FACES



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Donald Glover attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala on Monday in New York. The music video for Glover's recently released "This Is America," depicting gun violence amid racism, Negro minstrel shows and police brutality, has touched off debate.

# 'This Is America' seals star's reputation as protest artist

By JESSE J. HOLLAND  
Associated Press

It's been called a moving testament to modern times and an unflinching exploration of the wretched past experienced by African-Americans.

Donald Glover's "This Is America," a music video that depicts gun violence amid a mélange of racism, Negro minstrel shows, police brutality and mass killing, not only touched off a national debate, it affirmed Glover's place in the pantheon of artists who reveal uncomfortable truths about race through their work.

"The themes ain't new but this brings it into fresh (but dark) light," author and pop critic Luvvie Ajayi said Sunday in her online column. "It turned the mirror on this country and said 'see your life.' It is a read, an indictment and a challenge."

This terrain is not new for Glover either. Through his award-winning FX show "Atlanta," which has gotten critical acclaim for its portrayal of black Southern life, Glover has delved into topics ranging from single parent hood to crime, the pitfalls of fame and recently, youth suicide. As his musical alter-ego Childish Gambino, Glover performed "This Is America" last weekend while serving as guest host of "Saturday Night Live." He released the video around the same time.

Glover also has been outspoken about his career arc. Still, Glover's star is rising. He's set to appear in two upcoming Disney properties — the live-action Lion King remake and as Lando Calrissian in "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

Lester Spence, co-director of the Center for African Studies at John Hopkins University, called Glover's "This Is America" an heir to "Strange Fruit," recorded by Billie Holiday in 1939 to protest lynchings of African-Americans in the South.

There have been others: Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam," N.W.A.'s "F--- The Police," Marvin Gaye's "Mercy, Mercy Me" (The Ecology), Public Enemy's "Fight the Power." But what sets "This Is America" apart, Spence said, is that it "functions as an R&B song but also functions as a really, really powerful 'Black' with a capital 'B' commentary."

**The themes ain't new but this brings it into fresh (but dark) light."**

— author and pop critic Luvvie Ajayi

"I can't think of any other video that deals with American violence in the way that 'This Is America' does," Spence said.

The video's imagery is jarring: Police chases, a black guitar player shot point-blank in the head then dragged away unceremoniously, a black choir being gunned down mid-song — both times with the weapon treated with kid gloves — all while a shirtless Gambino sings, dances and raps with a smile on his face. He sings: "Yeah, this is America/ Guns in my area/ I got the strap/ I gotta carry 'em." At the video's end, he appears to be chased by a white mob.

The reactions on social media were swift.

"Donald Glover is a Genius," tweeted singer Erykah Badu, who explored poverty, violence and African-American identity in her 2008 album, "New Amerykah Part One."

Calvin C. Winbush II, who played the murdered guitar player in the video, told REVOLT TV in an interview Monday that he feels the video shows how desensitized America has become to violence against people of color. "In a matter of seconds, (my character) being shot and taken away was shocking," Winbush said. "We can say that's rude to show that, but this happens for real. He shot up the choir? That's crazy." This happens for real. This is America."

The general consensus was that "This Is America" was a condemnation of gun violence, which disproportionately affects African-Americans.

Gun violence is the top killer of African-Americans aged 15 to 34, according to the NAACP, and blacks are nearly half of all gun homicide victims, while making up only 13 percent of the population.

Glover's use of violence, and the reactions to it from mainstream America, bothered some.

Taron Moore, senior director of social media at MTV, said he considered it "traumatizing" to use images of fellow African-Americans being killed as entertainment. Many of those who texted him to praise Glover's video as "amazing" and "ground-breaking," were white, he said. "I really like the song, I don't hate the video, and I can respect the importance of art reflecting the world we live in," Moore said. "But this is REALLY happening without anyone putting it in a music video."

## Taylor Swift breaks silence about social media backlash

From wire reports

Taylor Swift is finally ready to talk about the Kim Kardashian and Kanye West Snapchat incident of 2016. Or at least the aftermath.

During the kickoff concert of her Reputation Stadium Tour on Tuesday night in Glendale, Ariz., the pop megastar opened up for the first time about the major social media backlash she experienced two years ago — and admitted that she initially thought it might ruin her career.

In case you forgot about the story that took over the internet in 2016, Swift publicly condemned West for calling her a "b--" and taking credit for her fame in his new song, "Famous." But then Kardashian uploaded a secretly recorded phone call to Snapchat that seemed to show Swift knew about the lyrics in advance and gave her stamp of approval.

Swift strongly disputed that account (the footage didn't show West using the b-word) and called it "character assassination," yet it was too late: The internet branded Swift a snake. Shortly after, Swift went underground.

Her disappearing act lasted until she released her latest album, "Reputation," in November. While the album's name and several songs appeared to address her public image taking a hit, Swift didn't elaborate, nor did she give any interviews. But Tuesday, she got a personal onstage.

"You might be wondering why there are so many snakes everywhere, huh?" Swift asked more than halfway through the show. Swift has embraced the snake imagery for this album cycle. During the concert there was a snake microphone, and at one point, Swift even flew through the crowd on a snake platform.

"A couple of years ago, someone called me a snake on social media and it caught on," Swift said, continuing her tradition of not naming names. "Then a lot of people were calling me a lot of things on social media. And I went through some really low times for a while because of it. I went through some times when I didn't know if I was going to get to do this anymore."

Swift further explained the snake symbol. "I wanted to send a message to you guys that if someone uses my name to bully you on social media, and even if a lot of people jump on board with it, that doesn't have to defeat you. It can strengthen you instead," Swift said, as the crowd cheered. "And I think something that came out of it was that I learned a really important lesson that I've been telling you from the stage for about 10 years, but I never had to learn it so harshly myself — and that lesson has to do with how much you value your reputation."

She concluded: "I think that the lesson is, you should never let go so much if you feel misunderstood by a lot of people who don't know you, as long as you feel understood by the people who do know you; the people who will show up for you, the people who see you as a human being."

In other matters, Swift shared a video on her Instagram Stories on

Tuesday showing a package that Katy Perry sent that included an olive branch. Inside was a letter in which Perry wrote that she was "deeply sorry" and wanted to "clear the air." Swift says it "means so much to me" and her video was captioned "Thank you Katy."

## Polanski calls #MeToo 'collective hysteria'

Oscar-winning filmmaker Roman Polanski says the #MeToo movement that sheds light on sexual misconduct of powerful men in Hollywood is "collective hysteria" and "total hypocrisy."

Polanski made the comment to the Polish edition of Newsweek in a recent interview given just days before the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences stripped him of its inactive 50-year membership, citing a case in 1977 in which he pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with a minor. The interview was published this week and the footnote said it was done before the May 3 Academy decision.

In his interview Polanski said that to him, #MeToo is a "collective hysteria of the kind that sometimes happens in the society."

"Everyone is trying to sign up, chiefly out of fear," he said, comparing it to North Korea's public mourning for its leaders when everyone cried so much that "you can't help laughing."

"To me this is total hypocrisy," he said, but did not elaborate.

Polanski's lawyer in Poland, Jan Oliszewski, said the director responded to the Academy decision with "indignation" and believes it was taken in violation of Academy regulations. He said there was no explanation of the reasons and no right of defense.

## Other news

■ **Keanu Reeves** and **Alex Winter** will reprise their roles as Ted Theodore Logan and Bill S. Preston Esq. in a third Bill & Ted adventure and the first in 27 years. The project was announced Tuesday at the Cannes film festival, with MGM's Orion Pictures set to release the film, titled "Bill & Ted Face the Music," in the U.S.

■ **PBS** has found its permanent replacement for **Charlie Rose**. **Christiane Amanpour** will host a new program called "Christiane Amanpour's program," with public affairs program called "Amanpour & Company" in the 11 p.m. timeslot. The new program will begin in July.

■ **Penelope Cruz** says she and her husband **Javier Bardem** were paid equally for the Cannes Film Festival's opening "Every Body Knows." In the film, Cruz and Bardem play former lovers dealing with the kidnapping of a daughter.

■ **The man** once considered among Hollywood's most powerful men is set to tell his story. **Michael Ovit** has written an autobiography simply titled, "Who Is Michael Ovit?" The book will be available Sept. 25.

■ **Kirsten Dunst** is a first-time mom. Her publicist says the 36-year-old actress and fiancée of actor **Plemons** had a healthy baby boy.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# AI takes center stage at Google conference

By RYAN KAKISHIMA  
AND MAE ANDERSON  
Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Google put the spotlight on its artificial intelligence smarts at its annual developers conference Tuesday, announcing new consumer features aimed at simplifying your life.

Many of the updates have a practical bent, designed to ease tasks such as composing emails, making lists, navigating city streets and lessening the digital distractions that have increasingly added people's lives as a result of previous tech industry innovations.

One of the biggest crowd-pleasers for the thousands of software developers who gathered at the outdoor conference was an augmented reality feature on Google Maps that helps people get walking directions. Users will be able to follow arrows — or possibly a cartoon-like creature that appears a camera view showing the actual street in front of them.

Some new features for Android phones also aim to improve people's digital well-being, including a new "shush" mode that automatically puts a phone in "do not disturb" mode if you flip it face down on a table. And a "wind down" mode will fade the screen to grey at a designated time to help you disconnect before bed.

The company's digital concierge, known only as the Google Assistant, is getting new voices — including one based on that of musician John Legend — later this year. It will also encourage kids to be polite by thanking them when they say please, similar to a feature Amazon is bringing to its Alexa voice assistant.

The assistant may also soon be talking with ordinary people at



Jorge Cuadros, left, demonstrates a robotic retinal camera to a reporter at the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, Calif., on Tuesday.

**One of the biggest crowd-pleasers ... was an augmented reality feature on Google Maps that helps people get walking directions.**

businesses for tasks such as restaurant reservations, although the feature is still in development. "Hi, I'm calling to book a hair appointment for a client," said a realistic-sounding automated voice in a demo from the conference stage. The AI assistant deployed pauses and "ums" and "mmm-hmms" to sound more human in conversation with real people.

also convert photos to PDFs and automatically add color to black-and-white photos or make part of a color photo black and white. The changes are coming in the next two months.

The search giant aims to make its assistant and other services so useful that people can't live without them — or the search results that drive its advertising business. But it also wants to play up the social benefits of AI and how it's being used to improve health care, preserve the environment and make scientific discoveries.

Pichai didn't emphasize the privacy and data security concerns that have put companies such as Facebook, Twitter and Google in the crosshairs of regulators. But he did say the company "can't just be wide-eyed about the innovations technology creates."

"We know the path ahead needs to be navigated carefully and deliberately," he said. "Our core mission is to make information more useful, accessible and beneficial to all of society."

Google's latest version of its Android phone software, for now known as Android P, will offer other smart features. It will teach the battery to adapt to how you use apps in order to conserve energy. Phones using Android P will

also learn how to set your screen brightness by studying your manual adjustments, a change from automatic adjustments based on ambient light levels.

But not everyone will see the new Android features soon — if at all. Android P won't be released until later this year, and even then, phone manufacturers and carriers frequently limit Android updates to their newest phones. Owners of Google's own Pixel phones will get the updates most quickly.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 10)	\$1.2174
Dollar buys (May 10)	69.8214
British pound (May 10)	\$1.39
Japanese yen (May 10)	177.794
South Korean won (May 10)	1,054.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3586
Canada (dollar)	1.2869
China (Yuan)	6.3640
Denmark (Krone)	6.2588
Egypt (Pound)	17.7794
Euro	\$1.1880/0.8417
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.4609
Hungary (Forint)	265.25
Israel (Sheqel)	3.5851
Japan (Yen)	109.76
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3018
Norway (Krone)	8.0583
Philippines (Peso)	51.95
Poland (Zloty)	3.59
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7513
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3409
South Korea (Won)	1,077.93
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0029
Taiwan (Dollar)	22.84
Turkey (New Lira)	4.2593

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-Japanese currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## MARKET WATCH

May 8, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	2.89
	24,360.21
Nasdaq composite	1.69
	7,266.90
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.71
	2,671.92
Russell 2000	7.44
	1,586.39

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	0.69
3-month bill	1.79
30-year bond	3.13

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# Stripes

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# OPINION

## Political stability still king in the UK

By ARTHUR I. CYR  
Special to Stars and Stripes

W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, the great British musical maestros, declared in their 1882 operetta "Iolanthe" that "every boy and every gal that's born into the world alive is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative." These were the dominant British political parties of the Victorian age.

The government of the United Kingdom was stable, except for sustained pressure for independence for Ireland. That was granted in 1921 after a bloody struggle.

The nation traditionally has had a stable two-party political system, though that is changing. Early in the 20th century, the Labour Party replaced the Liberals. Over the past half-century, the Liberals and successor Liberal Democrats gained, along with Scotland and Wales nationalist parties.

On May 3, local government elections took place in England — though not in Scotland or Wales. Independence in those regions has resulted in elected regional assemblies and governing powers devolved from London.

The Conservative Party, which holds the national government, experienced small losses. The opposition Labour Party made modest gains.

At the same time, British voters continue to reject extremist movements. The far-right UKIP — United Kingdom Independence Party — suffered devastating defeat, holding or gaining only three seats while losing 123. That trend continues with notable and growing support for far-right parties elsewhere in Europe, including France, Germany and Hungary.

UKIP decimation contrasts with the party's peak in 2014 and continues a trend visible at the level of Parliament. British voters have been most likely to support



VICTORIA JONES/AP

**Britain's opposition Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, arrives to cast his vote at a polling station in London during the local council elections on May 3.**

UKIP at the level of European Union elections, where representatives have been made and symbolic statements can be made without fear of significant national political impact.

The Liberal Democrats also gained control of some local councils, though not in total vote. Long-term revival from near oblivion led to them entering into a coalition government with the Conservatives following the indecisive 2010 general election.

Under the cover of formal collaboration, the Conservatives ruthlessly undercut their government partners. The Conservatives

won a narrow majority of House of Commons seats in the 2015 general election, which decimated the Liberal Democrats.

Measurable Liberal revival began in the early 1960s, spearheaded by the charismatic party leader Jo Grimond. The 1980s brought the new Social Democratic Party, led by breakaway Labour leaders, which merged with the Liberals into the Liberal Democrat Party in 1988.

Political stability is the bedrock fact of life in British politics that historically is firmly rooted and unchanging. In the 17th century, the nation experienced violent revolution, removal and execution of the reigning monarch, bloody civil war, and military dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell. This lengthy, extraordinarily violent period was succeeded in the latter 1600s with restoration of the monarchy, return of the traditional Parliament including an elected House of Commons, and reaffirmation of the rule of law.

In our time, the British have maintained stability through flexibility in institutions as well as policies. Regional assemblies for Scotland and Wales are one result.

Regarding the elections this month, professor John Curtice, of Strathclyde University in Scotland, argues the results show policy does matter. Specifically, continued public sympathy for Brexit — shorthand for leaving the European Union — helped to bolster Conservative support. Sir John has become an increasingly visible and influential expert on political and public opinion trends.

While Britain's political processes can appear chaotic, the long-term success of their representative government and competitive party democracy is clear. Britain's stability contrasts with some political trends in Europe — and the U.S.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College and author of "Liberal Politics in Britain."

## Elites can't ignore anti-Semitism in France

By PASCAL-EMMANUEL GOBRY  
Bloomberg

When France got rid of military service, it introduced instead a mandatory one-day seminar on "defense readiness" for all 18-year-olds. The day I had mine, there was a morning of presentations delivered by a meek reserve officer, who used a photo of the 9/11 attacks to help explain that France had a military, in part, to defend against terrorism.

That was the moment when one attendee, with the recognizable accent of the French "banlieues" — the immigrant-heavy suburbs — made his assertion: It wasn't terrorism we had 9/11. It was the Israelis, with missiles. I saw it on video." The officer let it go.

That moment encapsulated a broader reality that French elites have been aware of for a while — the virulent anti-Semitism that holds sway in much of the country's inner and outer suburbs. Longstanding reasons of political correctness, policymakers and leaders take pains to avoid the issue.

Last month, 250 French personalities, from former prime ministers to artists and intellectuals, published a "manifesto against the new anti-Semitism." This, they argued, was not anti-Semitism but the reactionary right that prevailed during the Vichy regime during World War II and which is now moribund; it is an Islamist anti-Semitism that holds sway among immigrant communities.

The official Interior Ministry statistics often cited are chilling. French Jews are 25 times more likely than French Muslims to

be victims of assault. Some 10 percent of Jews in the Paris area say they have had to move because of anti-Semitic assaults on them or on their children in public schools. The authors write of a "quiet ethnic cleansing" of French Jews from Muslim immigrant-majority neighborhoods. They note that many Muslim leaders fight Islamist anti-Semitism, adding that "most of them are under police protection, which speaks volumes on the reign of terror that Islamists have put French Muslims under."

They accuse the French elite of choosing to see Islamic radicalism as "the expression of a social revolt," in part because to self-interested politicians "the Muslim vote is 10 times bigger than the Jewish vote."

The reactions to the letter were predictable. Dalil Boubakeur, rector of the Great Mosque of Paris and unofficial spokesman for French Islam, called it "insane." The normally even-keeled center-left pundit Claude Askolovitch blasted the text for asserting that French identity and Islam are incompatible, even though it emphatically says no such thing.

The political correctness that tempts the hard left into covering up for anti-Semitism is not a French-only phenomenon. Witness the endless contortions of U.K. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, whose party lost the heavily Jewish borough of Barnet in last week's local elections because it did too little to shake off charges. But it is particularly noxious in France, where the radical left holds so much sway over elite discourse, and where Muslim immigration is so much larger.

According to official figures from 2016, one-third of reported criminal acts in

France with a racist motivation are anti-Semitic. The authors of the report note that those figures understate the reality since most Jews have stopped reporting all but the most violent anti-Semitic acts. In 2016, the pollster Ipsos found that fully half of French Muslims agreed with various anti-Semitic statements.

Yet, I have some sympathy for those outraged by the manifesto. Islamophobia is institutionalized in France, so their defensive reaction is understandable. Both sides have legitimate grievances. It's true that distressing numbers of French elites profess beliefs and engage in behaviors that can rightly be termed Islamophobic. It is also true that distressing numbers of French Muslims profess beliefs and engage in behaviors that are incompatible with life in an enlightened society and that political correctness makes that subject taboo.

Each of those issues is a massive problem on its own, but the bigger problem is the cultural assumptions that cause each side to look at only one part of the story. There is only so much government can do against such cultural problems, beyond reciting platitudes — and when it does try to step in, it is with heavy-handed attacks on free speech that only make the problem worse. The result is a vicious cycle of growing hostility and mutual radicalization. It's hard to see how to reverse it, but maybe one small step to help would be to dispel the kinds of myths and misnomers that fuel hatreds, like the one I witnessed when I was 18.

Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry is a Paris-based writer and fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

## OPINION

## Trump axes Iran deal, creates a new crisis

By ISHAAN THARoor

The Washington Post

The inevitable happened. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump announced a "pursuing" nuclear intent to exit the nuclear deal with Iran, following through on a key campaign promise while shrugging off the desperate entreaties of European allies.

In his remarks, Trump panned the Obama-era deal as "one-sided" and suggested that Iran was "pursuing" nuclear weapons — something that neither American intelligence agencies, foreign governments nor the international monitors charged with inspecting Iran's nuclear facilities believe.

One person who has suggested the existence of an ongoing Iranian nuclear weapon program is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli leader gave a televised address last week detailing supposedly explosive revelations about Iranian deceit, but his findings detailed Iran's activities well before the Iran deal took effect in 2015. Even so, Trump's address seemed to piggyback off Netanyahu's. "We cannot prevent an Iranian nuclear bomb under the decaying and rotten structure of the current agreement," he said.

Trump pointed to the Islamic Republic's role as a sponsor of militant groups throughout the Middle East and promised to reinstate key sanctions on Iran that had been waived as part of the agreement. By doing so, critics fear, he is dooming a landmark agreement that is widely seen as effective — and setting the stage for Iran to make an actual push toward an atomic device.

"Many experts believe a collapse of the agreement will trigger a suspension of the unique, wide-ranging access accorded to the U.N. nuclear watchdog over the past three years," wrote my Washington Post colleague Joby Warrick. "In effect, by rejecting the deal as inadequate for preventing Iran from getting the bomb, Trump could make it harder for U.S. officials to detect a secret Iranian effort to build nuclear weapons."

The potential for Iranian deceit makes the agreement all the more necessary.



IRANIAN PRESIDENCY OFFICE/AP

**Iranian President Hassan Rouhani addresses his nation in Tehran on Tuesday. In the wake of President Donald Trump's decision on the nuclear deal, Rouhani is facing blowback from hard-liners who were long opposed to making any deal with the U.S.**

"The Iranians lie. They cheat," former CIA Director Michael Hayden told Warrick. "That's why you need to have the best possible verification regime in place."

European officials made that argument over the past few months. French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and others urged Trump to preserve the JCPOA, as the nuclear deal is officially known, while they worked to collectively address other points of contention — chiefly Iran's ballistic missile program, which is not covered by the agreement, as well as its destabilizing role in the region.

But instead of building a united front with Europe, Trump may be driving a wedge between Washington and its traditional transatlantic partners. In a joint message, European leaders said they would attempt to "stick to the deal, no matter Trump's decision. Iranian officials said they would engage in talks with the deal's remaining signatories in a bid to keep it going.

"We believe that Europe, Russia and China would continue the deal with Iran, leaving the U.S. isolated and weakened in handling challenges like North Korea," read a statement from the European Leadership Network signed by more than 100 senior European diplomats and politicians. "For the United States to withdraw from the JCPOA would be to shoot itself in the foot."

"In a democracy, there will always be changes in policies and priorities from one Administration to the next," former President Barack Obama said in a rare public rebuke of Trump. But the consistent flouting of agreements that our country is a party to risks eroding America's credibility, and puts us at odds with the world's major powers."

In his announcement, Trump seemed to suggest he would be open to a new phase of diplomacy with Iran. But it's hard to see what that would entail or how he could achieve a better result than Obama, whose diplomats cobbled together a multilateral program of sanctions that brought Tehran to the table.

After manufacturing this crisis, Trump will not have such widespread support. "It took 30 years of diplomacy and an unlikely confluence of factors to get Iran to agree to the JCPOA's limits on its nuclear program," wrote Nicholas Miller, a nonproliferation expert at Dartmouth University. "Attempting to achieve a better deal without any of these favorable conditions would be quixotic at best."

Trump did receive hearty cheers from two places: Israel and Saudi Arabia, Tehran's chief antagonists in the region and two countries that reviled the Obama administration's attempts at rapprochement

with Tehran. In this instance, the geopolitical agendas of Washington's Middle East allies trumped those in Europe.

In his announcement, Trump also expressed solidarity with the Iranian people, mentioning the protests that have erupted in various Iranian cities out of anger with the country's tanking economy. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the embattled and increasingly humiliated proponent of engagement with the West, is now facing blowback from hard-liners who were long opposed to making any deal with the United States.

"The pitched battle between political moderates and hard-liners is so perilous that there is even talk of a military takeover," wrote Thomas Erdbrin, the Tehran bureau chief of The New York Times. He added that Trump's move tipped the scales against the so-called moderates. "Hard-liners, who have long lost popular support but control security forces, the judiciary and state television, are set to declare victory since they have always argued that the United States can never be trusted in any deal," he said.

"The common people will hate America more if Trump withdraws," said Hamidreza Taraghi, a hard-line analyst, to Erdbrin. "They will face hardship and be poor. They will hate Trump. That's good."

This may all be by design. The Trump administration, particularly noted hawks like national security adviser John Bolton, could be applying pressure in the belief that it will cause the regime in Tehran to collapse. But it's more likely a prelude to greater instability, further crises and perhaps even military confrontation.

"I think there are those in the administration who have a fantasy that we can somehow have a bloodless ... peaceful change in Iran if the president just punches the right buttons," Wendy Sherman, a former senior State Department official and Obama's lead negotiator, said in a phone call with Washington-based journalists. "That is an extraordinarily simplistic and naive understanding of this theater."

Ishaan Tharoor writes about foreign affairs for The Washington Post.

## Pence has perfected the art of governing by groveling

By GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON Donald Trump, with his feral cunning, knew. The oleaginous Mike Pence, with his talent for toadystism and appetite for obsequiousness, knows. Trump knew, become America's most repulsive public figure. And Pence, who has reached this pinnacle by dethroning his benefactor, is augmenting the public stock of useful knowledge. Because his is the authentic voice of today's lickspittle Republican Party, he clarifies this year's elections: Vote Republican to ratify groveling as governing.

Last June, a Trump Cabinet meeting featured testimonials offered to Dear Leader by his forelock-tugging colleagues. His chief of staff, Reince Priebus, caught the spirit of the worship service by thanking Trump for the "blessing" of being allowed to serve him. The hosannas poured forth from around the table, unredeemed even from a scintilla of insincerity.

Priebus was soon deprived of his blessing, as was Tom Price. Before Price's ecstasy of public service was truncated because of his incontinent enthusiasm for charter flights, he was the secretary

of health and human services who at the Cabinet meeting said, "I can't thank you enough for the privileges you've given me." Pence chimed in but saved his best riff for a December Cabinet meeting when, as The Washington Post's Aaron Blake calculated, Pence praised Trump's Aaron Blake every 12 seconds for three minutes: "I'm deeply humbled. ... Judging by the number of times Pence announces himself 'humbled,' he might seem proud of his humility, but that is impossible because he is conspicuously devout and pride is a sin.

Between those two Cabinet meetings, Pence and his retinue flew to Indiana for the purpose of walking out of an Indianapolis Colts football game, thereby demonstrating that football players kneeling during the national anthem are intolerable to someone of Pence's refined sense of right and wrong. Which brings us to his Arizona salute last week to Joe Arpaio, who was sheriff of Maricopa County until in 2016 voters wearied of his act.

Noting that Arpaio was in his Tempe audience, Pence, oozing unctuousness from every pore, called Arpaio "another favorite," professed himself "honored" by Arpaio's presence, and praised him as "a tireless champion of ... the rule of law." Arpaio, a grandstanding, camera-chasing

bully and darling of the tushigish right, is also a criminal, convicted of contempt of court for ignoring a federal judge's order to desist from certain illegal law enforcement practices. Pence's performance occurred 8 miles from the home of John McCain, who could teach Pence — or perhaps not — something about honor.

Henry Adams said that "practical politics consists in ignoring facts" but what was the practicality in Pence's disregard of the facts about Arpaio? His pandering had no purpose beyond serving Pence's vocation, which is to ingratiate himself with his audience of the moment. The audience for his praise of Arpaio was given to chanting "Build the wall" and applauded Arpaio, who wears Trump's pardon like a boutonniere.

Hoosiers, of whom Pence is one, sometimes say that although Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and flourished in Illinois, he spent his formative years — December 1816 to March 1830 — in Indiana, which he left at age 21. Be that as it may, on Jan. 27, 1838, Lincoln, then 28, delivered his first great speech, to the Young Men's Lyceum in Springfield.

Less than three months earlier, Elijah Lovejoy, an abolitionist newspaper editor in Alton, Ill., 67 miles from Springfield,

was murdered by a pro-slavery mob. Without mentioning Lovejoy, who would have been unnecessary — Lincoln lamented that throughout America, "so lately famed for love of law and order," there was a "mobocratic spirit" among "the vicious portion of [the] population." So, "let reverence for the laws ... become the political religion of the nation."

Pence, one of the evangelicals' favorite pin-ups, genuflects at various altars, as the mobocratic spirit and the vicious portion require.

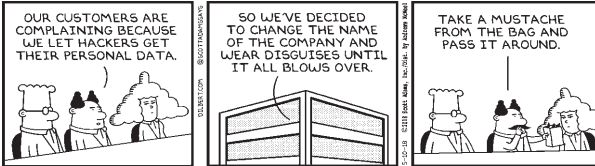
It is said that one cannot blame people who applaud Arpaio and support his re-habilitators (Trump, Pence, etc.) because, well, globalization or health care costs or something. Actually, one must either blame them or condescend to them as lacking moral agency. Republicans silent about Pence have no such excuse.

There will be negligible legislating by the next Congress, so ballots cast this November will be most important as validations or repudiations of the harmonizing voices of Trump, Pence, Arpaio and the like. Trump is what he is, a floundering, inarticulate jumble of gnawing insecurities and not-at-all compensating vanities, which is his path. Pence is what he has chosen to be, which is horrifying.

Frazz



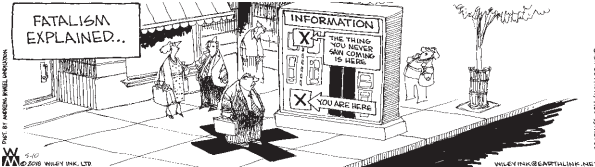
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



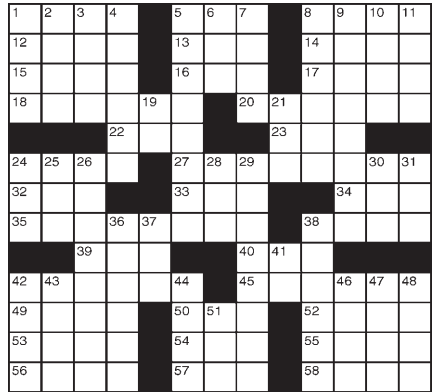
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Uppity one
- 5 TV alien
- 8 Help a hood
- 12 Lighten
- 13 Six, in Sicily
- 14 Wrestling style
- 15 Streamlet
- 16 Short 'do
- 17 Advanced math
- 18 Woman's shirt
- 20 Mountain chain
- 22 PX patrons
- 23 Dernier —
- 24 Papa's mate
- 27 Gifted
- 32 Bio stat
- 33 Lennon's love
- 34 World Cup cheer
- 35 Fertilizing mixtures
- 38 Requests
- 39 Aachen article
- 40 Branch
- 42 Does the tango
- 45 Like gasoline, once
- 49 Outside (Pref.)
- 50 Literary rep
- 52 Tubular pasta
- 53 Oodles
- 54 Sticky stuff
- 55 Elliptical
- 56 Ado

- 57 Mag. staff
- 58 Dickens girl

### DOWN

- 1 Belgrade resident
- 2 Hammer target
- 3 Norwegian seaport
- 4 Caviar provider
- 5 Fire-resistant material
- 6 Author Tolstoy
- 7 Little lies
- 8 Rearward
- 9 Filled tortillas
- 10 Qatar's ruler
- 11 Forum wear
- 19 Yes, to Juan
- 21 "Rocks"
- 24 Buddy
- 25 Past
- 26 Souvenirs
- 28 Busy insect
- 29 Silicon Valley city
- 30 Caribou kin
- 31 — Moines
- 36 Embroidery loops
- 37 Inseparable
- 38 Warrior woman
- 41 Concerning
- 42 Hearing-impaired
- 43 Rights org.
- 44 Wise one
- 46 Jackknife, for one
- 47 List-ending abbr.
- 48 Pickling herb
- 51 Deity

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### 5-10

### CRYPTOQUIP

SLUCF URC IHSJKU WNU  
LVXKUCFCY SJY IVSTCY NJC  
DCSKXFC HJMNFFCMUVT, RC  
FCWSSHJCY RHK MNDINKCF.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN VETERAN BROADWAY ACTOR BEN PUTS ON HIS SHEEP COSTUME, EVERYBODY CALLS HIM WOOL-VEREEN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals P




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## SPORTS REBOARD

## Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.  
myafn.net

## College baseball

## Tuesday's scores

**EAST**  
Army 11, Albany 10  
Mouthouth (N) 10, Hofstra 3  
Pittsburgh 3, Penn St. 2  
UConn Hall 5, Rider 3  
Binghamton 9-10, Siena 1-0  
St. John's 13, Sacred Heart 2

## SOUTHWEST

Alabama 9, Jacksonville 8  
Auburn 10, South Alabama 4  
Austin Peay 19, Lipscomb 5  
Charleston 10, The Citadel 6  
Davidson 7, N.C. Central 0  
Duke 5, Liberty 2

East Carolina 9, Norfolk St. 1  
ETSU 5, Liberty 2  
FAU 11, UCF 8  
Georgia 3, Georgia Tech 4

Georgia St. 7, Kennesaw State 4  
High Point 6, Elon 5  
Indiana 4, Wright St. 4  
Memphis 5, Belmont 4

North Carolina 4, Richmond 2  
Northwestern St. 7, Grambling St. 3  
Real Salt Lake 1, Colorado 0

South Florida 11, Florida 8  
Tennessee Tech 6, Vanderbilt 1  
UMBC 8, Delaware 6  
Wake Forest 5, Radford 1

## MIDWEST

Chicago St. 14, Illinois 8  
Cincinnati 6, Xavier 1  
Indiana 4, Central Methodist 3  
Creighton 5, Nebraska 4

Dayton 14, Bowling Green 5  
Florida 11, Oakland 1  
Evansville 10, UT-Martin 6  
Indiana 7, Indiana 5

Michigan (Ohio) 5, Ball State 3  
Miami 1, Cent. Michigan 2  
Ohio St. 10, Campbell 1  
Volapalisar 18, W. Michigan 13

Wichita St. 2, Oral Roberts 10  
Wichita St. 2, Oral Roberts 10

## SOUTHEAST

Baylor 18, Prairie View 1  
Kent, Arkansas 14, Kansas St. 3  
Texas Baptist 10, Texas Tech 1  
Little Rock 12, Arkansas Bluff 6

## FAIR WEST

Arizona 20, Grand Canyon 2  
Fresno State 6, CS Northridge 3  
Long Beach St. 5, UCLA 1  
Boysa Maymount 10, USC Bakersfield 0

0 Nevada 6, San Francisco 0  
New Mexico St. 4, New Mexico 3  
New Mexico 10, Oregon 9

Pepperdine 3, UC Santa Barbara 1  
Portland 13, Seattle 1  
Oregon 10, Oregon 9

Stanford 9, Santa Clara 0  
Stanford 6, San Diego 5  
Utah 6, BYU 3

## TOURNAMENTS

Red River Athletic Challenge  
LSU Alexandria 19, LSU Shreveport 6  
LSU Alexandria 10, LSU Shreveport 6

## Air spotlight

**1913** — Donerail, Illinois, by Roscoe Goss, comes from fifth place in the Kentucky Derby, by a neck.

**1919** — Barton, ridden by Johnny Loftis, leads the whole way to win the Kentucky Derby, by a length over Billy Kirk, the first to capture the crown, is out of the race.

**1970** — Bobby Orr's goal gives Boston Bruins the St. Louis Blues a four-point game.

**1997** — The plans for the NFL-AFL merger are completed. The NFL will consist of two conferences of 13 teams, the AFC and the NFC.

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## Pro soccer

## MLS

## Eastern Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United	6	2	2	20	19
New York City FC	6	2	2	19	14
Orlando City	6	2	2	19	14
New York City FC	6	2	2	19	14

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	3	4	3	15	10
New England	3	4	3	15	10
Montreal	3	4	3	15	10
Chicago	3	4	3	15	10

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	2	4	2	8	13
Toronto FC	2	4	2	8	13
D.C. United	2	4	2	8	13

## Western Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	6	2	2	20	12
Los Angeles FC	6	2	2	16	14
Vancouver	4	5	1	13	10
FC Dallas	4	5	1	13	10

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota United	3	4	3	13	11
Houston	3	4	3	13	11
Portland	3	4	3	13	11
LA Galaxy	3	4	3	13	11

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	3	4	3	10	19
San Jose	2	4	2	8	10
Colorado	1	5	2	5	16
Seattle	1	5	2	5	16

## Note: Three points for victory, one for a draw.

## Saturday's games

Montreal 4, New England 2  
New York 4, New York City FC 0  
New York City 1, Vancouver 0

FC Dallas 1, Los Angeles FC 1  
Houston 0, Seattle 0, tie  
Portland 1, Chicago 1

LA Galaxy 3, LA Galaxy 0  
Colorado 1, Colorado 0  
Portland 1, San Jose 0

## Sunday's games

Portland 3, Real Salt Lake 1  
Seattle 1, Seattle 0  
Philadelphia at Columbus  
Seattle at Toronto FC

Portland 3, Real Salt Lake 1  
Seattle 1, Seattle 0  
Philadelphia at Columbus  
Seattle at Toronto FC

## Friday's game

San Jose at Minnesota United  
Philadelphia at Montreal  
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas

Chicago at Columbus  
Toronto FC at New England  
United at Real Salt Lake  
New York at Colorado

## Saturday's games

Seattle at Portland  
Atlanta United FC at Orlando City  
New York City FC at Los Angeles FC

## NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
North Carolina	5	0	17	12	5
Seattle	3	2	11	10	10
Portland	3	2	11	10	10
Portland	3	2	11	10	10

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	1	4	7	5	4
Washington	1	4	7	5	4
Portland	1	4	7	5	4
Seattle	1	4	7	5	4

## Saturday's games

Seattle 3, Portland 2  
Portland 1, Portland 0  
Chicago 1, Washington 0

## Sunday's game

Chicago 1, Portland 1

## Wednesday's games

Portland at Houston  
Portland at Utah

## Saturday, May 12

Orlando at Portland  
Washington at North Carolina  
Houston at Chicago

## Seattle Blue FC at Seattle

## Tennis

## Madrid Open

Tuesday  
ATP 500 Madrid, Spain

Purse: ATP \$7.42 million (Masters 1000)

ATP 500 Madrid, Spain

Service: Clay-Outdoor

## Men

First Round  
Roberto Bautista Agut (1), Spain, def. Jared Donaldson, U.S. (3), 6-4, 6-4.

Dusan Lajovic (1), Serbia, def. Pablo Fognini, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.

Adrian Panatta (1), Italy, def. Chung Hyeon, South Korea, 6-4, 6-6.

Stefanos Tsitsipas (1), Greece, 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

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## NHL PLAYOFFS



PHOTOS BY JOHN WOODS, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Nashville's Filip Forsberg, left, on ice, and Ryan Johansen celebrate Forsberg's goal against Winnipeg goaltender Connor Hellebuyck during Monday's game in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Forsberg is tied with Washington's Alex Ovechkin for the most points this postseason with 15.

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington 3, Pittsburgh 2  
Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2  
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1  
Washington 3, Washington 1  
Washington 6, Pittsburgh 3  
Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1  
Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2  
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2  
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1  
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3, OT  
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 3, Nashville 3

Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1  
Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT  
Winnipeg 1, Nashville 4  
Nashville 2, Winnipeg 1  
Winnipeg 6, Nashville 2  
Nashville 4, Winnipeg 0

Thursday: at Nashville; AFN-Atlantic 2

x-Friday CET; 10 a.m. Friday JKT

Vegas 4, San Jose 2  
Vegas 7, San Jose 0  
San Jose 4, Vegas 3, 2OT  
Vegas 4, San Jose 3, OT  
San Jose 4, Vegas 0  
Vegas 5, San Jose 0  
Vegas 3, San Jose 0

## Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington vs. Tampa Bay

Friday: at Tampa Bay

Sunday, May 13: at Tampa Bay

Tuesday, May 15: at Washington

Thursday, May 17: at Washington

x-Saturday, May 19: at Tampa Bay

x-Monday, May 21: at Washington

x-Wednesday, May 23: at Tampa Bay

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Nashville or Winnipeg vs. Vegas

Saturday: at Nashville or Winnipeg

Monday: at Nashville/Winnipeg

Wednesday, May 16: at Vegas

Friday, May 18: at Vegas

x-Sunday, May 20: at Nashville/Winnipeg

x-Tuesday, May 22: at Vegas

x-Thursday, May 24: at Nashville/Winnipeg

# 'Scoresberg' dazzling with scoring touch

## Highlight-reel goals have kept Predators alive

By TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

**F**ilip Forsberg dropped his broken stick and raced to the bench for another just as the puck slid around the boards near his skates. He grabbed a new stick from the Predators' equipment manager, fought off Jets defenseman Ben Chiarot and kept the puck inside.

Then he skated toward Connor Hellebuyck, holding off Chiarot as he scored, then slid into the net.

The man also known as Scoresberg or Filthy Fil then helped send the Western Conference semifinal back to Nashville for a deciding Game 7 with another highlight-reel worthy goal.

Viktor Arvidsson found Forsberg, and the Swede slipped the puck through his legs, a movement that prompted Hellebuyck to slide away from the post to cover the empty net to his left.

Forsberg immediately flipped the puck through the sliver of an opening, causing a GIF-frenzy on social media.

With the postseason that Forsberg is having, Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne can't settle on the best goal he's seen from his teammate.

"I feel like these two series that already at least three or four really unbelievable goals, and it's hard to pick," Rinne said. "I'm just a fan when I watch him play."

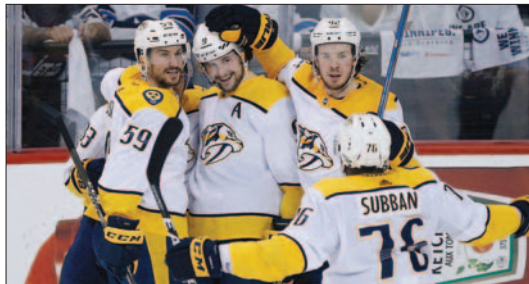
Forsberg led the Predators with 64 points helping Nashville win the franchise's first Presidents' Trophy during the regular season. He now is the franchise's all-time leading scorer in the playoffs with 15 points this postseason, bringing Nashville back for Game 7 on Thursday night against Winnipeg as the Predators seek a second straight berth in the West final. The winner of this series will host the Vegas Golden Knights for the first two games.

With Pittsburgh and Boston eliminated, Forsberg now is tied with Washington's Alex Ovechkin for the most points scored this postseason with 15, and the Predators forward has a plus-4 rating that is a point ahead of Ovechkin with both having played 12 games each.

Forsberg looks just as comfortable passing the puck through his own legs as those of a defenseman he's undressing on his way to another goal or even just juggling the puck with his stick to give teammates time to get back on ice. The 23-year-old forward from Ostervala, Sweden, said his stick skills are the result of a lot of hard work.

"Natural is definitely not the word for it, but it just takes a lot of practice, takes a lot of you doing," Forsberg said. "Just try to maybe do it in practice and stuff like that and once in a while you get time and space for it in a game, you try to pull it off."

Some scorers tap into their natural talent, blessed with quick hands and eyes along with soft hands. Others spend hours and hours developing muscle memory. Forsberg counts himself among those who



Predators, from left, Roman Josi, Filip Forsberg, Ryan Johansen and P.K. Subban celebrate Forsberg's goal during the third period on Monday. Nashville beat Winnipeg 4-0, forcing a decisive Game 7 in their Western Conference semifinal series.

made themselves into scorers. He started as a young child using a shooting ramp his father built and a lot of road hockey.

"I think that's where it all started," Forsberg said.

His skills grew as he led his junior team with 40 points in 2010-11 and helped Sweden win silver at the 2011 World Under-18 Championship.

Washington made Forsberg their first-round pick in 2012. He never played a game for the Capitals before being traded April 3, 2013, to Nashville.

The Predators wasted no time getting Forsberg on the ice, playing him in five games that season. Forsberg spent only 13 games with Nashville in 2013-14, and he has been a fixture in the lineup since 2014-15. They signed him to a six-year, \$36 million contract in June 2016.

Center Nick Bonino won two Stanley Cups with Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in Pittsburgh, and he's gotten to watch Forsberg up close this season after signing as a free agent.

"He's very skilled," Bonino said. "He's one of the most skilled sticks I've ever seen. Practice is fun with him. Games are fun with him."

Forward Colton Hissops sees Forsberg as having a gift that helps him see how best to move the puck instantly to execute in high-pressure moments. Sissons also is pretty sure of what might happen if he tried to mimic some of Forsberg's scoring moves.

"I might break my ankle or something bad might happen," Sissons said. "I'd probably just jam it in the near post, but I'll leave the through the legs stuff to Fil and some of those guys."

## MLB

# No: Paxton gets help from Seager

## FROM BACK PAGE

Paxton threw the third no-hitter in the majors this year — all three have come in different countries.

Oakland's Sean Manaea pitched one against Boston on April 21 in California. Four Los Angeles Dodgers combined to no-hit San Diego in Mexico last Friday.

Coming off a career-high 16 strikeouts in his last start, Paxton (2-1) was electric once again, hitting 100 mph with his fastball while retiring Josh Donaldson on a grounder to end it.

Paxton struck out seven, walked three, threw 99 pitches and benefited from an outstanding play by third baseman Kyle Seager. With two outs in the seventh, the former Gold Glove made a full-length diving stop on speedy Kevin Pillar's grounder down the line, then slung an off-balance throw that first baseman Ryon Healy snagged on one hop.

"If that ball gets by you, it's going to be hard to get any sleep tonight," Seager said. "It may be hard anyway."

Russell Martin led off the Toronto eighth with a long drive that left fielder Ben Gamel caught near the wall.

"What a defense tonight. That was amazing. Those guys were making every play," Paxton said.

Anthony Alford fouled out on the first pitch to begin the ninth and Teoscar Hernandez struck out swinging. Donaldson ended it with a hard one-hopper to Seager.

Healy pumped his fist after catching Seager's throw, and the Mariners streamed out of the dugout, dousing their pitcher with a cooler as the crowd of 20,513 cheered.

After his teammates had left the field, Paxton came back out and waved to the fans.

"Just showing my respect to the Canadian fans," Paxton said. "I really appreciate their cheers along the game, supporting me being Canadian. That was very special. I just wanted to show them that I heard them and that



FRED THORNHILL, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

## Mariners starting pitcher James Paxton struck out seven, walked three and threw 99 pitches in a no-hitter against the Blue Jays.

I was very grateful for their support."

Paxton said his tattoo also includes a mural of Bowyer Island, north of Vancouver, where his family owns a summer cabin.

"It's kind of a special thing for me, having not lived in Canada for the past 10 years or so," he said. "It just reminds me of home."

Paxton was a first-round draft pick by Toronto in 2009 out of the University of Kentucky, but didn't sign. He instead played in an independent league, was drafted by the Mariners in the fourth round the next year and joined them.

Seattle fans certainly appreciate him, too, especially the ones sitting in Maple Grove. Rather than K cards to mark his strikeouts, they hold up "Eh" signs in a playful nod to his heritage.

This outing was a lot better than his first game in Canada. He allowed nine runs, six walks and seven hits in 2-2-3 innings in a September 2014 loss to the Blue Jays.

"We've come a long way from that," he said.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said he started to think early about what could happen.

"Probably about the fourth inning I looked up and realized his pitch count was in such good shape that if he got a few breaks along the way we might be looking at something special," Servais said. "It certainly was special tonight."

Paxton's season has taken off since a bald eagle mistakenly landed on his shoulder before a start last month. He's 2-0 with a 2.51 ERA over seven starts since the bird stuck its talons into his back before the Minnesota Twins' home opener.

Fowler threw his no-hitter on Sept. 9, 1945, against the St. Louis Browns. He had recently returned from serving in the Canadian military during World War II, missing two full seasons, and pitched his gem in his first start of the year.

This was the sixth no-hitter for the Mariners franchise, and the first since Hisashi Iwakuma did it against Baltimore in 2015. Felix Hernandez threw a perfect game in 2012, and Randy Johnson tossed Seattle's first no-hitter in 1990.

It was the first no-hitter against the Blue Jays since Detroit's Justin Verlander did it in Toronto on May 7, 2011. Toronto has been no-hit five times.

Mike Zunino hit a two-run homer as the Mariners improved to 12-6 on the road.

Marcus Stroman (0-5) remained winless in seven starts. The right-hander allowed five runs and nine hits in five innings, and has a 7.01 ERA.

**Power outage:** Toronto has been held without a home run in back-to-back games for the first time this season.

# Reds get Harvey, trade Mesoraco

BY JOE KAY

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Matt Harvey is getting another chance, this time with a historically bad team in a city that will have far fewer late-night temptations than the Big Apple. The Mets are getting a catcher who can help at their most unsettled position.

The Reds acquired the former New York ace for catcher Devin Mesoraco on Tuesday, shortly before Cincinnati pulled away to a 7-2 victory at Great American Ball Park.

The deal provided a fresh start for two former All-Stars whose careers have been sidetracked by injuries.

Mesoraco merely had to walk to the visiting clubhouse and was on the bench for the first pitch by Luis Castillo, which Mesoraco originally supposed to catch. He was still wearing his Reds socks when he headed for the New York clubhouse, where attendants were sewing his name on the back of a Mets uniform.

"Just kind of surreal," Mesoraco said. "A whirlwind. A lot happened in 15 minutes."

He pinch hit in the ninth and took a called third strike as New York lost for the seventh time in eight games.

The Mets created a spot for him to play immediately when they put third baseman Todd Frazier was put on the 10-day disabled list with a strained left hamstring. Harvey is in Los Angeles working out and will join the team for the start of a series there against the Dodgers on Thursday.

The Mets lost starting catcher Travis d'Arnaud to season-ending Tommy John surgery last month, so Mesoraco gives them another option.

"We feel fortunate that we were able to add a veteran guy who's good in the clubhouse who can play a couple of days a week," said J.P. Ricciardi, a Mets special assistant. "We talked to Jay (Bruce) and Todd (Frazier) about him."

The Reds agreed to pay the Mets \$5,788,978 as part of the

trade, which made the deal come out nearly even financially. Harvey is making \$5,625,000 on a one-year contract. Mesoraco gets \$13 million in the final season on a four-year, \$28 million deal.

The 29-year-old Harvey was designated for assignment on Saturday, giving the Mets seven days to trade or release him when he refused a demotion to the minors. Harvey was 0-2 with a 7.00 ERA this season.

The Reds were 8-27 at the time of the trade, matching the worst 35-game start in franchise history, with the rotation their most glaring problem. Harvey will move into the rotation immediately.

"When he became available, we were interested," interim manager Jim Riggleman said. "We were saying, 'We hope we're in the mix.'"

General manager Dick Williams said the Reds checked into Harvey's off-field conduct — he was suspended for three days without pay last May for skipping a game following a late night on the town — but were mostly concerned about his recent pitching."



KYUSUNG GONG/AP

**The Met traded former ace Matt Harvey to the Cincinnati Reds for catcher Devin Mesoraco in a swap of former All-Stars with careers sidetracked by injuries.**

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## MLB

## Roundup

## Royals pound Bundy

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Dylan Bundy had a difficult time on the mound and an easy explanation for his horrid, record-setting performance. "I was leaving pitches right down the middle and they were hitting them over the fence," the right-hander said, matter-of-factly.

Bundy yielded four homers and left without getting an out, part of a 10-run first inning that propelled the Kansas City Royals past the hapless Baltimore Orioles 15-7 Tuesday night.

Bundy (1-5) was lifted after allowing five hits and two walks to the only seven batters he faced. That was more than enough damage to send the Orioles to their season-high seventh straight defeat and 19th in 22 games.

Jon Jay started the onslaught with a leadoff single before Jorge Soler, Mike Moustakas and Salvador Perez homered in succession.

Two walks and a home run by Alex Gordon followed, ending Bundy's night after just 28 pitches. It marked the first time in the current era (1908-present) that a pitcher gave up four home runs during an outing in which he did not retire a batter, according to baseball-reference.com.

After compiling a 1.42 ERA in his first five starts, Bundy has given up 19 earned runs in his past three games to inflate his ERA to 5.31.

"Physically, I'm fine," he insisted. "I'm just not executing the pitches I need to right now."

Following Bundy's departure, the Royals did not let up.

Alcides Escobar greeted Mike Wright with a single, the eighth straight batter to reach base. After No. 9 hitter Ryan Gurne grounded out, two disgruntled fans in the crowd of 10,863 mustered a mock cheer. Minutes later, however, Moustakas singled in two runs and Perez capped the uprising with a sacrifice fly.

Moustakas finished with three hits, two homers and five RBIs to help KC reach season highs in runs and hits (20). Gordon had four hits and three RBIs, and Soler also drove in three runs.

The outburst took manager Ned Yost by complete surprise.

"You never know something like this is coming," he said. "I mean, 20 hits. You just take it when you can get it."

Nearly half of those 20 hits came in the first inning, when KC sent 14 batters to the plate.

"It was a lot of fun," Moustakas said. "You know, once it came back around to the top of the order, that was pretty awesome. I don't think I've ever been a part of that before."

**Number 4, Padres 0:** Jeremy Hellickson was perfect until Tra-



KENNETH K. LAM, BALTIMORE SUN/TNS

**Orioles starting pitcher Dylan Bundy reacts after giving up a solo home run to the Royals' Mike Moustakas in the first inning Tuesday in Baltimore. Bundy gave up four home runs and left without getting an out after 28 pitches in a 10-run first inning.**

vis Jankowski's single leading off the seventh inning and led Washington over host San Diego.

Hellickson (1-0) struck out eight and kept the Padres off balance four nights after they were no-hit by four Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers in Mexico.

**Astros 4, Athletics 2:** George Springer kept up his hitting surge with two hits and two RBIs as Houston beat Sean Manaea and the host A's.

A day earlier, Springer became the first Astros player to get six hits in a nine-inning game.

**Braves 1, Rays 0:** Ronald Acuna Jr. became the youngest pitcher to homer in a 1-0 game since 1935, lifting visiting Atlanta.

The last player younger than the 20-year-old Acuna to go deep in a 1-0 game was the Chicago Cubs' Phil Cavarretta against the St. Louis Cardinals on Sept. 25, 1935, according to MLB.com. Cavarretta was 19 years old at the time.

**Diamondbacks 8, Dodgers 5 (12):** David Descalso hit a tiebreaking, pinch-hit three-run homer in the 12th inning to lift visiting Arizona to its third straight win.

Yimi Garcia (0-1) served up the shot to right field with two outs after pinch-hitter Alex Avila singled and Paul Goldschmidt walked.

**Cubs 4, Marlins 3:** Kris Bryant slid home safely with the go-ahead run on Victor Caratini's grounder to the right side in the eighth inning as host Chicago beat Miami.

Caratini wound up with the winning RBI, a few innings after the Cubs catcher got into a heated situation at home plate with Miami's Derek Dietrich.

**Brewers 3, Indians 2:** Reliever Brent Strom homered off AL Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber and threw 4 1/3 innings of two-run ball to lead host Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Suter connected on the first pitch by Kluber (5-2) in the third for the first homer of his professional career. It was the first home run given up by Kluber to a pitcher in his eight years with the Indians.

**Reds 7, Mets 2:** Catcher Devin Mesoraco made the short walk between clubhouses shortly before the first pitch as New York dealt for help at its neediest position, and he watched the Mets lose to host Cincinnati.

The Mets traded former ace Matt Harvey to the Reds — he'll join them in Los Angeles on Thursday for the start of a series against the Dodgers — and had Mesoraco on their bench for the first pitch.

**Twins 7, Cardinals 1:** Jake Odorizzi pitched five strong innings and Eduardo Escobar had a two-run homer as visiting Minnesota won its season-high fifth straight game.

**Phillies 4, Giants 2:** Aaron Nola struck out a career-high 12 in seven stellar innings and Odbel Herrera had two hits to extend his career-best on-base streak to 37 games for host Philadelphia.

Aaron Altherr, Carlos Santana and Jorge Alfaro hit solo home runs for the Phillies. Nola (5-1) allowed one run and five hits while walking none.

**Pirates 10, White Sox 6:** Colin Moran hit a key two-run double, Jordy Mercer also had two RBIs and visiting Pittsburgh cleaned up in interleague play once again, beating the White Sox.

Corey Dickerson had four hits. The Pirates have dropped five of seven, but they love to plunder the other league, specifically their counterparts in the AL Central. Pittsburgh improved to 7-2 in interleague play this year and 65-44 over the last six seasons.

**Tigers 7, Rangers 4:** Victor Martinez, Jeimer Candelario and Jose Iglesias homered for visiting Detroit.

Adrian Beltre got three hits for Texas after missing 12 games with a strained hamstring. He is MLB's active leader in hits with 3,078.

**Rockies 4, Angels 2:** Jon Gray continued Colorado's strong stretch of starts with seven scoreless innings, and the host Rockies won their sixth in a row.

Gray walked one and struck out eight to notch Colorado's ninth straight quality start, a franchise record.

## Stanton, Judge lift Yanks over BoSox

By MIKE FITZPATRICK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As soon as Joe Kelly emerged from the bullpen, fired-up fans at Yankee Stadium let him have it.

Moments later, so did Aaron Judge.

Giancarlo Stanton homered twice, including a laser shot to left field, and Judge hit a tiebreaking single off New York's latest public enemy as the Yankees edged the rival Boston Red Sox 3-2 on Tuesday night for their 16th victory in 17 games.

In the opener of a three-game showdown between baseball's top two teams, Luis Severino struck out 11 during a taut pitching duel with Red Sox lefty Drew Pomeranz.

Judge cut down a runner at second base with a pinpoint throw from right field, and the starling rolling Yankees — on their best 17-game run in 65 years — won their seventh straight to tie Boston for first place in the AL East at 25-10.

"We're right there where we need to be," Stanton said after his 31st career multi-homer game and third this season.

It was the first time the storied rivals squared off with the two best records in the majors since June 2, 2002, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. And after their bench-clearing brawl at Fenway Park last month, touched off when Kelly drilled Tyler Austin with a pitch, a revved-up crowd of 45,773 packed the big ballpark in the Bronx to see old foes go at it again.

"Actually, I thought it was going to be worse," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "It was a good baseball game. Like I've been telling you guys, this place is alive. I lived it last year during the playoffs (with Houston)."

There was no trouble on the field this time as New York won its 10th consecutive home game, its longest streak since July 2008

at the original Yankee Stadium.

"That's done. That's in the past. Our focus is about winning baseball games, not fighting," Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez said through a translator.

Neil Walker got the winning rally started in the seventh inning with a pinch-hit double off Heath Hembree (2-1), who walked the next two batters sandwiched around a balk.

That's when Kelly came out of the bullpen and was greeted by loud boos.

"I was inside getting ready, to be honest, but I could hear it through the door," Stanton said.

Judge laced a bases-loaded single that scored Walker to put New York ahead. Left fielder Andrew Benintendi threw out Gleyber Torres at the plate on the play.

David Robertson (3-1) gave up a tying triple to Mookie Betts in the seventh, but got three outs for the win. Aroldis Chapman earned his eighth save in nine chances.

"It was probably more like a playoff atmosphere," Kelly said. "It was fun."

Booted in the Bronx earlier this season, Stanton delivered in his first home game with the Yankees against Boston.

The muscular slugger connected for leadoff homers in the second and fourth against Pomeranz, who shook off a cracked finger nail early in the game following a manicure on the mound from head athletic trainer Brad Pearson.

Stanton's second homer was a high fly to the opposite field that cleared the short porch in right. His first shot was a screaming line drive into the lower seats near the left-field corner.

"Superhero swing," a smiling Boone said. "When he connects, it comes off differently."

Major League Baseball announced the Yankees and Red Sox will play two regular-season games against each other at the Olympic Stadium in London next season. Boston will be the home team for both of MLB's first games in Europe on June 29-30, 2019.



KATHY WILLENS/AP

**The Yankees' Aaron Judge hits an RBI single in the seventh inning Tuesday against the Boston Red Sox. Host New York won 3-2.**

## SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA PLAYOFFS



TONY DEAR/AP

Raptors head coach Dwane Casey was named coach of the year by the National Basketball Coaches Association as voted on by his fellow NBA coaches.

## Briefly

## Memo: France family 'dedicated' to NASCAR

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — If NASCAR is for sale, the France family isn't saying.

An attempt to calm employees about the future of the struggling, family owned racing series came Tuesday from NASCAR President Brent Dewar, but his memo said only that there would be no comment on "industry rumors."

It's long whispered that NASCAR could be on the selling block and Chairman Brian France has become dramatically less visible since the end of last season. Most public duties are now handled by Dewar, who addressed employees about a report a day earlier that Goldman Sachs had been retained to explore a potential sale for the France family.

The France family, which owns a majority stake in the nation's top auto racing series, "remains dedicated to the long term growth of our sport," Dewar wrote in the memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The memo did not specifically address any possible deal by the France family.

## NFL suspends Saints' Ingram 4 games

NEW ORLEANS — The NFL says New Orleans Saints running back Mark Ingram has been suspended for the first four regular season games of 2018 because of a violation of the league's performance enhancing drug policy.

The league has not released details about whether Ingram has tested positive for a performance enhancing drug or simply a banned masking agent.

The league says Ingram will be eligible to participate in all off-season and preseason practices and games, and will be eligible to play in his first regular season game after the Saints visit the New York Giants on Sept. 30.

Last season, Ingram rushed for a career-high 1,124 yards and 12 touchdowns to go with 416 yards receiving.

In other NFL news:

■ San Francisco 49ers line-

backer Reuben Foster pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges stemming from allegations that he attacked his then-girlfriend in their home in February.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for May 17, at which point Foster's former girlfriend, Elissa Ennis, may testify under oath.

Ennis has recanted the allegations that led to the domestic violence case.

## Raptors' Casey voted by peers as coach of year

The Toronto Raptors' Dwane Casey was the NBA's best coach this season, according to his fellow NBA coaches.

Casey was announced Wednesday as the coach-of-the-year selection by the National Basketball Coaches Association. The award is voted on only by the league's head coaches.

A media panel voted separately for the NBA's Coach of the Year award, which will be announced June 25.

## S. Williams withdraws from Italian Open

ROME — Serena Williams has withdrawn from next week's Italian Open, saying she needs more time to be "100 percent ready to compete."

The tournament made the announcement via Twitter.

Williams returned to the tour briefly this year after a 14-month absence to give birth to her daughter.

## UFC fights will be streamed on ESPN Plus

LAS VEGAS — UFC and The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday announced an agreement for live fight coverage on its new subscription streaming service beginning in January.

The agreement calls for 15 live UFC events to stream exclusively on ESPN Plus. Each event will be called "UFC on ESPN Plus Fight Night" and will feature 12 bouts.

## Paul goes off for 41, finally gets into conference finals

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Chris Paul is an ultra-intense competitor, often the most passionate player on the court.

But even for his Houston Rockets teammates, what they saw from him Tuesday night was on another level.

Paul scored a playoff career-high 41 points with eight three-pointers to finally reach the conference finals, helping the Rockets eliminate the Utah Jazz 112-102 in Game 5.

"He said you get out of the way ... I'm going to put us on my back," James Harden said. "You could see it in his eyes. He had that look in his eyes. If he has that look in his eyes ... he's a problem."

The Rockets will meet Golden State after the Warriors closed out their series against the New Orleans Pelicans last Tuesday night. Top-seeded Houston will host the series opener Monday night.

It will be Houston's second trip to the Western Conference finals in four years and the first ever for Paul. The point guard has been panned for failing to get past the second round in his nine previous trips to the postseason.

"He's been under a lot of unfair scrutiny throughout the playoffs and tonight he showed that he wanted it," Utah star rookie Donovan Mitchell, who is close with Paul, said. "He does it every night, but taking over the way he did was very impressive."

Mitchell had 22 of his 24 points for Utah in the third quarter before leaving with about seven minutes left with an apparent leg injury. The team didn't provide an update on his condition after the game, but he was wearing a walking boot on his left foot.

Paul, a nine-time All-Star in his first season with Houston after an offseason trade from the Los Angeles Clippers, also had 10 assists and seven rebounds. His previous career-best in the playoffs was 35 points, which he accomplished three times.

The 33-year-old scored 20 points in the fourth quarter, answering everything the Jazz tried to do in order to close out the game and series.

"He was playing with a chip on his shoulder," Luc Mbah a Moute said. "In that fourth quarter, he just took over."

Paul had been in the conference semifinals four other times before finally getting over the hump this season. He lost to the Spurs 4-3 in 2008 while with New Orleans and was swept by San Antonio in 2012 with the Clippers. He also lost 4-2 to the Thunder while with Los Angeles, and his Clippers had a 3-1 lead in 2015 before Houston won the next three games.

While he wouldn't talk about finally getting over the second-



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Rockets guard Chris Paul reacts after a three-pointer by PJ Tucker during the second half in Game 5 of the second-round series against Utah on Tuesday. Paul had 41 points in Houston's victory.

**'You could see it in his eyes. He had that look in his eyes. If he has that look in his eyes ... he's a problem.'**

James Harden

Rockets guard

round hump, he had no problem discussing how much he's enjoying this season.

"It's just fun," he said. "It's not about the points or anything like that. It's about the process."

The Rockets were able to close out the series despite Harden, the front-runner for MVP, being under the weather. Coach Mike D'Antoni disclosed that Harden wasn't feeling well Tuesday, and he looked a little worn down postgame. But when asked what was wrong with him, Harden said he was fine.

Paul said he was just trying to pick up the slack with Harden not feeling like himself.

"Whatever it took to win," Paul said. "James was under the weather so we were just trying to pick him up."

Houston lost to the Warriors 4-1 when they last reached the conference finals in 2015. They believe they're much better suited to match up with Golden State this time around, but know it won't be easy to dethrone the defending champions.

"They've been built to beat everybody," general manager Daryl

Morey said. "They're going to be a tough matchup. We'll have to bring our A-plus game and I think our guys are ready."

While the Rockets took a minute Tuesday night to appreciate what they've done so far, they were quick to point out that they're far from finished chasing their goals this season.

"We just advanced in another series which is an accomplishment, but that's not our main goal," Trevor Ariza said. "We are still taking steps toward that, but this is an accomplishment."

Houston is in the conference finals for the seventh time in franchise history and looking to win its first title since taking back-to-back championships in 1994-95.

Harden loves that he has so many players around him that have led to the team's success this season and thinks that will be valuable moving forward.

"In order to get where we want to go we needed the right piece, and that's what they're here for," he said. "I know if we give the effort that we know we can it's pretty tough to beat us."

# NBA PLAYOFFS

# Warriors reach fourth straight West final

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After a Game 3 flop in New Orleans, similar to that lone first-round loss against San Antonio last month, coach Steve Kerr provided a quick reminder to the Golden State Warriors.

It's not supposed to be easy at this stage — especially for the defending champions.

There's no way this postseason can go as brilliantly as the last one. That remarkable, record-setting 16-1 run to the title, well, it's not going to happen often, or maybe ever again.

"I told our team actually after Game 3 the day we practiced, I said, 'What we did last year was the first time and only time anybody has ever accomplished that in the playoffs, gone 16-1,' Kerr said. "I know the Lakers went 15-1, they had a similar kind of joy ride where very little adversity, but that's the extreme exception. Year after year, the NBA champion has to go through so much to get there. And that's why you pour champagne on each other, because it's really hard, and it's supposed to be hard. The fact that it is so difficult brings out the best in you because you have to be on edge and on guard."

Now comes the next and most daunting test in this quest for a repeat.

The Warriors eliminated the Pelicans with a 113-104 win Tuesday night and are on to the Western Conference finals to face the top-seeded Houston Rockets, who closed out the Jazz earlier Tuesday in their own Game 5. This is the matchup so many have looked to for months.

"You can't believe the hype," Klay Thompson guarded before the Warriors played. "Everybody is already talking about Warriors for good reason."

And for good reason. It might just have a Finals feel with so much talent and scoring on both teams.

"I think it will be very entertaining," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said.

Golden State has succeeded playing big and small. It has pushed the pace and dealt with San Antonio slowing things way down. The Warriors have endured a couple of blips this time around, and that hasn't necessarily been a bad thing.

"Every series you play gets harder and harder," Stephen Curry said, referencing Kerr's remarks.

Kerr didn't have to say anything to his players on the urgency of closing out the Pelicans in Game 5 at Oracle Arena, where the Warriors won a franchise-record 15th straight home playoff game to match the Bulls' NBA record.

"I dial people on my rotary phone. Nobody seems to answer, though," Kerr quipped. "Nobody answers a home phone anymore. No texts necessary."

Curry has his swagger and strike back now that he has played four games following near-



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Golden State's Draymond Green, left, raises his arms in celebration after a three-pointer by Stephen Curry during the second half in Game 5 of their second-round playoff series against New Orleans on Tuesday.

ly six weeks on the sidelines with a sprained left knee. He played 37 minutes in the clincher and the entire fourth quarter.

When Gentry was asked about the Warriors' "Hamptons Five" starting lineup of Curry, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, Andre Iguodala and Thompson — all of the guys who were together working on getting Durant to sign in July 2016 — he had some fun. "You can call them any kind of five, they're really good," Gentry said. "You can call them the Jackson Five. ... They've got 2½ Michaels."

Yet there was a stretch late in the regular season when Kerr wasn't sure the Warriors would bounce back defensively and return to their dominant form. Scoring has never been a problem.

"Our defense was so bad in Indiana and in Utah, there was absolutely a part of me that thought, 'I don't know if we can get our defense together, I know we'll get our offense together,'" Kerr said.

"Defense requires a mentality and a spirit and a unity and sense of purpose from the five guys on the floor. We were just a shell of ourselves that last week."

The Warriors weren't playing for anything then, assured of the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference. They have learned over recent seasons how to elevate the level when the playoffs arrive.

So far, instead, the Warriors have found a way to defend both styles, preferring to run with the fast-paced, push-the-tempo Pelicans while dealing with daunting big man Anthony Davis.

"This group is very smart and versatile and the key is the effort that they bring. I think inevitably, you see it in every series, if you handle your business early there's going to be a natural letdown," Kerr said. "When the letdown happens, how do you respond? That's what I always look for, and that's what was very satisfying with (Game 4). We didn't bring the necessary force in Game 3, we were threatened on the road, and our guys brought it and set a tone early, and that's the mark of a great team."

When the stakes got bigger, Green delivered — leading the way with his intensity on both ends and becoming the first Warriors player to average a triple-double in a playoff series. He also had two key baskets in the closing minutes.

"We love his intensity, and when it's channeled in productive plays, whether it's stuff that doesn't show up in the stats sheet, or if it does we really rely on that," Curry said. "He's been playing amazing this whole playoff run, taking the challenge defensively whoever he is guarding, being an officiator on offense, knocking down shots."

## Scoreboard

### Conference semifinals (Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

<b>Eastern Conference</b>	
<b>Cleveland 4, Toronto 0</b>	
Cleveland 113, Toronto 112, OT	
Cleveland 128, Toronto 110	
Cleveland 105, Toronto 103	
Cleveland 128, Toronto 93	
<b>Boston 3, Philadelphia 1</b>	
Boston 117, Philadelphia 101	
Boston 108, Philadelphia 103	
Boston 101, Philadelphia 98 (OT)	
Philadelphia 103, Boston 92	
<b>Wednesday at Boston</b>	
<b>x-Friday at Philadelphia</b>	
<b>x-Sunday, May 13 at Boston</b>	
<b>Western Conference</b>	
<b>Houston 4, Utah 1</b>	
Houston 110, Utah 96	
Utah 116, Houston 108	
Houston 103, Utah 87	
Houston 100, Utah 87	
<b>Tuesday: Houston 112, Utah 102</b>	
<b>Golden State 4, New Orleans 1</b>	
Golden State 123, New Orleans 101	
Golden State 121, New Orleans 116	
New Orleans 116, Golden State 121	
Golden State 118, New Orleans 92	
<b>Tuesday: Golden State 113, New Orleans 104</b>	

### Conference finals (Best-of-seven; x if necessary)

<b>Western Conference</b>	
<b>Houston vs. Golden State</b>	
<b>Monday, May 14 at Houston</b>	
<b>Wednesday, May 16 at Houston</b>	
<b>Sunday, May 20 at Golden State</b>	
<b>Tuesday, May 22 at Golden State</b>	
<b>x-Thursday, May 24 at Houston</b>	
<b>x-Saturday, May 26 at Golden State</b>	
<b>x-Monday, May 28 at Houston</b>	

### Postseason leaders

	PTS	FG	FT	PTS	PTS	PTS
James, CLE	11	140	82	377	34.3	
Davis, NOR	9	106	53	271	30.1	
Westbrook, OKC	6	64	33	176	29.3	
Harden, HO	10	90	72	285	28.5	
Durant, GOL	10	102	57	280	28.0	

### Tuesday

#### Warriors 113, Pelicans 104

**NEW ORLEANS** — Moore 4-12 1-2 10, Mitchell 4-9 1-2 12, Davis 13-26 7-9 34, Rondo 3-7 0-0 7, Holiday 11-21 3-3 27, Hill 0-0 0-0, Miller 2-4 0-0 5, Clark 4-9 0-0 9. Totals 41-88 12-16 104.  
**GOLDEN STATE** — Iguodala 1-4 0-0 2, Durant 10-18 5-5 24, Green 9-19 0-0 19, Curry 10-16 5-5 28, Thompson 10-22 1-1 23, West 0-3 0-0 0, Bell 1-2 0-0 2, Looney 2-6 0-0 4, Livingston 3-6 0-0 6, Cook 2-5 1-1 5. Totals 48-100 12-12 113.  
**NEW ORLEANS** 26 30 19 29-104  
**Golden State** 32 27 36 18-113  
Three-point Goals—New Orleans 10-24 (Mitch 3-6, Holiday 2-6, Davis 1-2, Rondo 1-2, Miller 1-2, Clark 1-3, Moore 1-3), Golden State 7-27 (Curry 3-6, Thompson 2-8, Durant 1-4, Green 1-5, Iguodala 0-1, Cook 0-3). Fouled Out—Looney, Rebounds—New Orleans 44 (Davis 15), Golden State 53 (Green 14). Assists—New Orleans 26 (Holiday 11), Golden State 36 (Green 9). Total Fouls—New Orleans 12, Golden State 18. A—15,996 (15,996).

#### Rockets 112, Jazz 102

**UTAH** — Ingles 5-10 0-0 12, Crowder 2-11 2-6, Gobert 5-9 2-4 12, Favors 9-17 4-5 24, O'Neale 6-10 4-4 17, Mitchell 3-3 0-1 6, Jerebko 1-1 0-0 3, Neto 0-5 0-0 0, Burks 7-15 5-22, Totals 38-81 16-21 102.  
**HOUSTON** — Ariza 1-4 0-0 2, Tucker 7-9 0-19, Capela 1-2 3-4 5, Paul 12-22 7-41, Harden 7-23 3-18, Mbah a Moute 3-5 1-1 8, Nene 3-4 0-0 6, Gordon 2-8 0-0 5, Green 3-7 0-8, Totals 40-84 17-17 112.  
**Utah** 31 31 21 37-112  
**Houston** 21 31 21 37-112  
Three-point Goals—Utah 10-28 (Burks 3-5, Ingles 2-6, Mitchell 2-7, Jerebko 1-0, O'Neale 1-2, Crowder 1-5, Cook 0-2), Houston 18-39 (Paul 8-10, Tucker 5-7, Green 2-6, Mbah a Moute 1-2, Gordon 1-5, Harden 1-1, Ariza 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Utah 41 (Gobert 9), Houston 40 (Paul 7). Assists—Utah 24 (Mitchell 9), Houston 21 (Paul 10). Total Fouls—Utah 18, Houston 16. A—18,055 (18,055).



## SPORTS



**Western showdown**  
Warriors, Rockets headed to  
conference final » **Pages 30-31**



MLB

## No-Canada

Mariners' Paxton first  
Canadian to throw  
no-hitter in homeland

BY IAN HARRISON  
Associated Press

**J**ames Paxton looked up at the 20,000 Canadian fans cheering for him and pointed to the giant maple leaf tattoo on his right forearm. The Big Maple picked the perfect place for the game of his life.

Paxton became the first Canadian to throw a no-hitter in his home country, pitching the Seattle Mariners over the Toronto Blue Jays 5-0 Tuesday night.

"You couldn't write this stuff," Paxton said. "Pretty amazing to have it happen against the Blue Jays, at home in Canada."

Not bad, eh?

The 29-year-old lefty from British Columbia got a standing ovation at Rogers Centre. The crowd rooted for him in the late innings, realizing he was one of their own — his tattoo of Canada's national symbol includes an image of a family home near Vancouver.

"The fans were great," he said. "They were giving me some trouble in the seventh inning, but once I got past that, they started kind of cheering me on. It was cool."

Paxton joined Dick Fowler of the 1945 Philadelphia Athletics as the only Canadians to throw a no-hitter.

**SEE NO ON PAGE 27**

Mariners starting pitcher James Paxton celebrates after throwing a no-hitter against the Blue Jays on Tuesday in Toronto.

FRED THORNHILL  
THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

**O's Bundy makes history with awful inning » Page 29**

